

Senate Resolution 300

By: Senators Harrell of the 40th and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate University Fees Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, postsecondary education is a critical investment in Georgia's future work force
3 and the health and vitality of the state's economy; and
- 4 WHEREAS, tuition and fees have increased significantly in all sectors of postsecondary
5 education in the past decade, forcing many students to take on the burden of heavy debt, to
6 abandon postsecondary education, or both; and
- 7 WHEREAS, many postsecondary students attend school part time due to work or family
8 commitments; and
- 9 WHEREAS, university fees are an increasingly costly part of the price of postsecondary
10 education; and
- 11 WHEREAS, postsecondary institutions often require part-time students to pay full-time fees;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to review the fees associated with the cost of
14 postsecondary education as such fees relate to the overall cost of tuition and determine more
15 affordable solutions, particularly for part-time students and graduate students, and make
16 recommendations regarding potential changes to the tuition and associated fees structure.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate University Fees
19 Study Committee.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members as
21 follows:

22 (A) The chairperson of the Senate Higher Education Committee, who shall serve as
23 chairperson of the committee;

24 (B) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, comprising
25 one member from the majority caucus and one member from the minority caucus;

26 (C) The chancellor of the University System of Georgia, or the chancellor's
27 designee; and

28 (D) The president of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, or the president's
29 designee.

30 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
31 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
32 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
33 be authorized to request the assistance of the University System of Georgia to assist the
34 committee in its study.

35 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
38 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

39 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

40 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
41 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

42 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
43 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
44 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
45 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
46 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

47 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
48 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
49 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
50 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
51 employees.

52 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
53 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
54 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
55 from funds appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the
56 expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
57 come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

58 (6) **Report.**

59 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
60 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
61 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
62 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

63 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
64 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
65 of this paragraph.

- 66 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
67 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
68 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
69 the Secretary of the Senate. Any member of the committee may file a minority report
70 that shall accompany the majority report.
- 71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
72 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 73 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2021.