

Senate Resolution 552

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Payne of the 54th, Butler of the 55th, Jackson of the 2nd, Au of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Achievement Gap for Boys Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the education of its citizens is of primary importance to the State of Georgia;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, access to quality education has a direct impact on the lives and well-being of
- 5 the residents of this state; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the achievement gap is the disparity in educational attainment between different
- 7 groups and it negatively affects individuals and society; and
- 8 WHEREAS, there is a need for professional development for instructional personnel and
- 9 school administrators relating to the achievement gap for boys; and
- 10 WHEREAS, there is a need to develop curriculum, supplemental material, and classroom
- 11 activities in early learning programs and K-12 in order to close the achievement gap for boys;
- 12 and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need for academic, behavioral, and mental health supports to help
14 educate and raise young men who are better prepared for success in school and in life; and

15 WHEREAS, there is a need to examine evidence based strategies for closing the achievement
16 gap for boys and to make recommendations to the Georgia Department of Education and
17 General Assembly.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA:

20 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Achievement Gap for
21 Boys Study Committee.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 11 members as
23 follows:

24 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members
25 of the committee. The chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee shall
26 be one of the appointed members and shall be designated as a cochairperson. The
27 President of the Senate shall also appoint an additional two members of the committee
28 as follows: one teacher from a K–12 school and one principal from a K–12 school; and

29 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
30 House of Representatives as members of the committee. The chairperson of the House
31 Education Committee shall be one of the appointed members and shall be designated
32 as a cochairperson. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also appoint an
33 additional two members of the committee as follows: one teacher from a K–12 school
34 and one principal from a K–12 school; and

35 (C) The state school superintendent or his or her designee.

36 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
37 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
38 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

63 (6) **Report.**

64 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
65 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
66 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
67 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

68 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
69 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to
70 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

71 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
72 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
73 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
74 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

75 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
76 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the
77 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

78 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.