

Senate Resolution 977

By: Senators Williams of the 39th, Jackson of the 2nd, Sims of the 12th, Millar of the 40th, Orrock of the 36th and others

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to ten Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Albany
4 State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Interdenominational
5 Theological Center, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris Brown
6 College, Paine College, Savannah State University, and Spelman College; and

7 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities located in the State of Georgia are
8 significant economic engines in metro Atlanta and East, Middle, and South Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have made many significant
10 contributions to the State of Georgia, including having historically served as the only option
11 for African Americans interested in pursuing higher education, and will continue to play
12 important roles with regard to access, education, research, and service; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia accounts for roughly 10 percent of more than 100 Historically Black
14 Colleges and Universities across our nation, and while these schools represent just 3 percent
15 of our country's institutions of higher learning, they graduate nearly 20 percent of African
16 Americans who earn undergraduate degrees; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the United Negro College Fund, Historically Black Colleges and
18 Universities generate 25 percent of all bachelor degrees in science, technology, engineering,
19 and mathematics (STEM) fields earned by African Americans. Additionally, Historically
20 Black Colleges and Universities award 14 percent of all African American engineering
21 degrees at less than half the cost of other four-year colleges and universities; and

22 WHEREAS, while Historically Black Colleges and Universities also serve as culture hubs
23 for students from all across the State of Georgia and the United States, despite these

24 contributions, many Georgia Historically Black Colleges and Universities have come under
 25 increased scrutiny due to a lack of knowledge surrounding the significant impact they have
 26 on their students, employees, local communities, and the entire state; and

27 WHEREAS, a study is needed to better understand the necessity, economic impact, and
 28 unique contributions that Georgia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities make on a
 29 consistent basis while also examining economic factors such as student outcomes, academic
 30 research, employee salaries, institution spending, student spending, and the multiplier effect
 31 of these factors.

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

33 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
 34 on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

35 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
 36 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, at least three of whom shall be
 37 members of the minority caucus. The President shall designate a member of the
 38 committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

46 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

47 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
 48 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
 49 Georgia Annotated.

50 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
 51 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
 52 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
 53 appropriated to the Senate.

54 (6) **Report.**

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

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

62 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
63 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

64 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
65 the Secretary of the Senate.

66 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
67 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

68 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.