

House Resolution 57

By: Representatives Carter of the 175th, McCall of the 33rd, England of the 116th, Dickey of the 140th, Coleman of the 97th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Elementary and Secondary School Nutrition Programs Study Committee;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the quality of nutrition supplied to Georgia's children through school nutrition
4 programs has a significant impact on their development; and

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education administers federal school nutrition programs and
6 is committed to improving these programs by ensuring that only the freshest and most
7 nutritious foods available are served in our cafeterias; and

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health works collaboratively with the Department of
9 Education in the administration of important federal and state child nutrition programs such
10 as the United States Department of Agriculture Food Distribution Program and Georgia
11 Shape; and

12 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, as part of its 20/20 Vision for School Nutrition
13 campaign, has successfully assisted 45 Georgia schools in building foundations for
14 sustainable farm-to-cafeteria options through agency programs such as Feed My School For
15 A Week and Georgia Grown Test Kitchens; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study and collect information on the overall condition
17 of school nutrition programs in Georgia and to discuss opportunities for improvements to the
18 state administration of these programs.

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

21 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Elementary and
22 Secondary School Nutrition Programs Study Committee.

(2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following 17 members:

(A) Three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

(B) Three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

(C) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee.

(D) The Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his or her designee.

(E) The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture or his or her designee.

(F) Two members who shall be school nutrition directors each currently employed by a school system in this state. Each cochairperson shall appoint one such member.

(G) Two members who shall be finance directors for a local board of education. Each cochairperson shall appoint one such member.

(H) Two members who shall be producers or distributors of agricultural products. Each cochairperson shall appoint one such member.

(I) One member to be appointed by the cochairperson from the House of Representatives who shall be a parent of a child or children attending elementary or secondary school in this state.

(J) One member to be appointed by the cochairperson from the Senate who shall be a registered dietician in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Report.

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

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

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

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

(7) Abolishment. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.