

## Senate Resolution 977

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Beatty of the 47th, Cagle of the 49th, Mullis of the 53rd, Brush of the 24th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State Road and Tollway Authority to use tolls from individual projects to pay for  
2 only those individual projects, and no others; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, when toll facilities have been constructed, the State of Georgia has represented  
4 to its citizens that the revenues from the tolls collected for the use of such facility would be  
5 used to pay for the construction of that facility and would cease when the bonds for the  
6 construction of the facility were retired; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation and the State Road and Tollway  
8 Authority have entered into an agreement with the federal government which amends the  
9 original funding arrangements for the construction of toll facilities to permit the use of the  
10 toll revenues from those project to be used to fund other projects; and

11 WHEREAS, the fundamental underlying principle in the collection and use of tolls for roads  
12 and other such projects should be that the users of the project who benefit from the project  
13 should pay for its construction and, upon the completion of the payment for the costs  
14 associated with the construction of the project, the tolls should cease; and

15 WHEREAS, tolls should not be used as general revenue sources or as a mechanism for  
16 taxing the users of one project to pay for the construction of a different road or project; and

17 WHEREAS, this change in the funding arrangement for toll facilities violates these basic  
18 principles by authorizing that toll revenues from one project may be taken and used for other  
19 projects, thereby converting the toll into a tax; and

20 WHEREAS, this arrangement also violates the trust which the citizens of this state have  
21 placed in their government to stand by its promises and representations; and

1 WHEREAS, this arrangement should be immediately reversed and voided and all toll  
2 revenues from any existing or future toll facility should be committed to that facility only and  
3 for no other project.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
5 call upon the State Road and Tollway Authority to restore the previous understanding for the  
6 funding of toll facilities and urge the Governor, the State Department of Transportation, the  
7 State Road and Tollway Authority, and the U.S. Congress to adopt a policy that the toll  
8 revenues from any individual project shall be used only for the payment of the construction  
9 bonds and costs for such project; that, when such bonds are retired, toll collections on that  
10 project will cease; and that such toll revenues from that project will never be used for any  
11 other road or project.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
13 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Commissioner of  
14 Transportation, the U.S. Congressional delegation from Georgia, and the executive director  
15 of the State Road and Tollway Authority.