

Senate Resolution 232

By: Senators Polak of the 42nd, Starr of the 44th, Walker of the 22nd, James of the 35th, Hill of the 4th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Underage Drinking Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia's youth are the state's most precious resource; and
- 3 WHEREAS, alcohol is a powerful mood-altering drug and affects children's changing and
4 developing hormonal systems; and
- 5 WHEREAS, it is more harmful to smaller bodies and minds that are still growing; and
- 6 WHEREAS, children are using alcohol more than tobacco or illegal drugs; and
- 7 WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of Americans (96 percent) are concerned about
8 underage drinking; and
- 9 WHEREAS, problems resulting from early alcohol use can affect children for life, in
10 education, relationships, and jobs; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the age of first use predicts future abuse: Forty percent of children who drink
12 before age 13 will become alcohol dependent at some time in their lives; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the average age at which children begin to drink today is 13; and
- 14 WHEREAS, alcohol poisonings are likely to be heavily underreported because physician
15 reports often omit the mention of alcohol in patient records to avoid family embarrassment;
16 and
- 17 WHEREAS, 2.6 million teenagers do not know that a person can die from an alcohol
18 overdose; and

1 WHEREAS, youth who drink alcohol are 7.5 times more likely to use any illicit drug, and
2 50 times more likely to use cocaine than young people who never drink alcohol; and

3 WHEREAS, on a typical campus, per capita student spending for alcohol (\$446.00) far
4 exceeds the per capita budget of the college library; and

5 WHEREAS, alcohol is implicated in more than 40 percent of all academic problems and 28
6 percent of all dropouts; and

7 WHEREAS, 30 percent of students in fourth through sixth grades reported pressure from
8 classmates to drink beer; and

9 WHEREAS, one-third of eighth graders have been drunk at least once; and

10 WHEREAS, one of four ninth graders who drink report binge drinking; and

11 WHEREAS, college students who reported D and F grade averages consumed an average of
12 ten alcoholic drinks per week, while those who earned mostly A's consumed slightly more
13 than three drinks per week; and

14 WHEREAS, 60 percent of college women diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease
15 were drunk at the time of infection; and

16 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of college students surveyed said they wished alcohol was not
17 available at campus events; and

18 WHEREAS, \$134 million per congressional district is being spent on youth alcohol related
19 problems.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
21 Underage Drinking Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate to be
22 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a
23 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
24 meetings of the committee.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
26 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions

1 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
2 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
3 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
4 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
5 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
6 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
7 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
8 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
9 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
10 shall be made on or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on
11 December 31, 2001.