

Senate Resolution 382

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Cellular Telephone Use While Driving; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, studies show that motor vehicle collisions are a leading cause of death in North
4 America and the single most frequent cause of death among children and young adults, and
5 they account for one fatality every ten minutes; and

6 WHEREAS, the various causes of motor vehicle collisions are complicated, but experts agree
7 that error due to driver distraction contributes to over 90 percent of such events; and

8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that the use of cellular telephones in motor vehicles is
9 associated with a quadrupled collision risk during the brief period of a call; and

10 WHEREAS, this relative risk is similar to the hazard associated with driving with a blood
11 alcohol level at the legal limit; and

12 WHEREAS, while cellular telephones provide a vital link to sources of help in emergency
13 situations and while their use in this purpose is encouraged, the operation of a motor vehicle
14 on the public roadways while using a cellular telephone may cause the driver to maintain less
15 than full attention to the operation of said motor vehicle; and

16 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the available statistics and facts which correlate the
17 use of cellular telephones while driving and motor vehicle accidents in this state is necessary.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
19 Study Committee on Cellular Telephone Use While Driving to be composed of five members
20 of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate
21 shall designate a member of the committee to serve as chairperson, and the chairperson shall
22 call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety is authorized and
2 directed to cooperate with the committee in providing to the committee statistics and other
3 information which relate to motor vehicle accidents in the State of Georgia which causes
4 have or may have involved the use of cellular telephones by motorists.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
6 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
7 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
8 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
9 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
10 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
11 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
12 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
13 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
14 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
15 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
16 shall be made on or before December 31, 2001. The committee shall stand abolished on
17 December 31, 2001.