

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SR 134:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Prevention and Emergency Care of Injuries in
2 Georgia; creating the Joint Study Committee on Georgia Border Communities; and creating
3 the Commission on Work Force Security and Enhancement in the New Georgia Economy;
4 and for other purposes.

5 **PART I**

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is concerned with protecting the health of the citizens of
7 Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions, bicycle and
9 pedestrian mishaps, falls, fires, and other causes result in 2,800 deaths every year in Georgia;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries are the most common cause of death among children and
12 young adults (ages 1-34) in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, unintentional injury death rates in most Georgia counties are higher than in the
14 United States as a whole; and

15 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries are a leading cause of hospitalization and permanent
16 disability; and

17 WHEREAS, the costs of unintentional injuries include not only medical care but costs of
18 rehabilitation and loss of wages; and

19 WHEREAS, unintentional injuries can be prevented via education of the public,
20 implementation of specific injury prevention programs, and implementation of laws and
21 regulations; and

1 WHEREAS, programs exist which have been proven effective in preventing unintentional
2 injuries; and

3 WHEREAS, skilled on-site treatment, rapid transport, and the availability of specialized
4 trauma treatment centers can reduce death and permanent disability from all types of injuries;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, effective public health surveillance programs can guide the type and placement
7 of unintentional injury prevention programs, emergency transport, and trauma treatment
8 centers.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on the Prevention and Emergency
11 Care of Injuries in Georgia to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed
12 by the President of the Senate; three members of the House of Representatives to be
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Director of the Governor's
14 Office of Highway Safety or such person's designee; the Director of the Division of Public
15 Health of the Department of Human Resources or such person's designee; the President of
16 the Georgia Hospital Association or such person's designee; a representative of the Medical
17 Association of Georgia and Georgia State Medical Association or that person's designee; the
18 Executive Director of Safe Kids of Georgia or such person's designee; the Director of
19 Children's Trust Fund or such person's designee; the Commissioner of the State Department
20 of Community Health; and the Director of the Injury Control Center of the Rollins School
21 of Public Health or such person's designee to be appointed by the Governor with such
22 person's consent. The Governor shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
23 of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
25 needs, issues, and problems associated with the prevention of unintentional injuries,
26 emergency transport, and emergency treatment of injured persons. The committee may
27 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
28 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
29 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
30 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
31 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
32 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
33 from the funds appropriated to the Senate and House of Representatives. In the event the

1 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
2 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2001. The
3 committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2001.

4 **PART II**

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a significant number of communities that border other
6 states; and

7 WHEREAS, these border communities are facing a number of serious problems related to
8 their geographical proximity to other states; and

9 WHEREAS, the disparity in economic incentives, revenue, taxes, and benefits is having a
10 substantial impact on these border communities; and

11 WHEREAS, studying how states bordering these communities deal with questions of
12 property tax abatement, salary structure, and tax incentives, among other issues, would help
13 guide the development of programs to improve the quality of life in border communities as
14 well as the entire state.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Georgia Border Communities
17 to be composed of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the
18 Senate and three members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
19 of the House of Representatives. The Governor shall designate a member of the committee
20 as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
22 needs, issues, and problems related to being a border community including the impact on
23 new and current businesses on increases in salaries; a comparison of the flexibilities that
24 other states have in dealing with questions of property tax abatement; and the possibility of
25 establishing a partnership similar to "The Alabama Partnership." The committee may
26 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
27 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
28 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
29 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
30 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are

1 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
2 the funds appropriated to the Senate and House of Representatives. In the event the
3 committee makes a report of its finding and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
4 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2001. The committee
5 shall stand abolished on December 15, 2001.

6 **PART III**

7 WHEREAS, Georgia's employers and employees are reliant upon each other for their mutual
8 economic success; and

9 WHEREAS, the viability of the state's employment security system is dependent upon
10 maintaining a solvent unemployment trust fund supported by fair employer contributions;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the federal unemployment insurance system was instituted in 1935 as an income
13 support program tailored to meet the needs of the work force and economy prevailing at that
14 time; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia's employment security system was established to assist job seekers in
16 securing suitable employment and to assist employers in obtaining qualified workers to meet
17 workplace needs; and

18 WHEREAS, the state's employment security system is intended to provide qualified citizens
19 who lose their jobs through no fault of their own with access to limited, employer-funded
20 assistance while they seek new employment or wait for reemployment and to lessen the
21 impact of an economic downturn on the broader community; and

22 WHEREAS, the public policy of this state is and has been that economic insecurity due to
23 unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of this
24 state; that involuntary unemployment requires appropriate action by the General Assembly
25 to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which so often falls with crushing force upon
26 the unemployed worker or the worker's family and that the achievement of social security
27 requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life by the systematic
28 accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of
29 unemployment; and

1 WHEREAS, advances in technology and expansion of international trade have forged a new
2 economy and changed the nature of work; and

3 WHEREAS, the composition of Georgia's work force has become more diverse since the
4 institution of federal and state income support and security programs, with the inclusion of
5 increased numbers of women, minorities, the disabled, and the elderly; and

6 WHEREAS, the composition of the work force has been further changed in recent years as
7 a result of welfare reform, immigration, and other factors to include increasing numbers of
8 new entrants who are low-skilled and low-wage workers and the State of Georgia has a
9 continuing and abiding interest in strengthening the attachment of these individuals to the
10 work force; and

11 WHEREAS, much debate has occurred concerning the role and effectiveness of federal and
12 state income support and economic security programs in facilitating worker and employer
13 adjustment to rapidly changing economic circumstances and the adequacy of the design of
14 such programs; and

15 WHEREAS, any effort to restructure existing income support and economic security
16 programs should include strategies for accommodating the changing needs of workers and
17 employers in a changing economy; and

18 WHEREAS, any effort to restructure existing income support and economic security
19 programs should include careful analysis and consideration of methods that enhance the
20 administration of income support and economic security programs; and

21 WHEREAS, an opportunity should be provided for members of the General Assembly to
22 study and consider these issues and options to address them, with the assistance and advice
23 of employers, labor and other community stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring the
24 continued prosperity of Georgia's economy and its work force; and

25 WHEREAS, such a study should include consideration of strategies for assisting workers and
26 employers in adjusting to changing economic conditions and changes in the mix of
27 employment opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, such a study should also include consideration of the role of public-private
2 partnerships in implementing worker education and job training and community assistance;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the foregoing changes necessitate new strategies for providing workplace
5 education and training to assist workers in acquiring new skills.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 GEORGIA that there is created the Commission on Work Force Security and Enhancement
8 in the New Georgia Economy to be composed of 17 members as follows: three members of
9 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker thereof; three members of the Senate
10 appointed by the President thereof; five members appointed by the Governor, to include
11 representatives of the state Department of Technical and Adult Education, the University
12 System of Georgia, and the public schools, and two additional members; five members
13 appointed by the Commissioner of Labor from the business, labor, and general community;
14 and the Commissioner of Labor who shall chair the commission. The commission shall meet
15 at the call of the chair.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to normal legislative staff support services,
17 the commission shall make use of staff support services provided by the Department of
18 Labor.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the
20 conditions, needs, issues, and problems described in this resolution and issues related thereto
21 and may recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems appropriate.
22 The commission is authorized to conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it
23 considers expedient and to do all other things consistent with this resolution which are
24 necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately exercise its powers, perform its
25 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Departments and
26 agencies of the state are authorized to furnish such assistance to the commission as the
27 commission deems appropriate. Legislative members shall receive expenses and allowances
28 authorized by law for members of interim legislative committees for their services on the
29 commission. Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative
30 members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
31 commission but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of
32 their duties as members of the commission. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of
33 the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and their state employees,

1 shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments.
2 All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the
3 funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the Senate and House of Representatives.
4 The commission shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions
5 for proposed legislation, if any, on or before December 31, 2001. The commission shall
6 stand abolished on December 31, 2001.