

House Resolution 1630

By: Representatives Noel of the 44th, Smith of the 13th, Post 2, Dix of the 70th, Post 2, Teilhet of the 34th, Post 2, Stoner of the 34th, Post 1, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Truck Safety on the Highways; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, over 15,000 people have lost their lives in this state in motor vehicle crashes
4 in the past ten years, and Georgia has been in the top five states for the past five years for
5 fatalities in motor vehicle crashes involving large trucks; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's population has grown dramatically in the past decade and with the
7 growth in population has come an increase in drivers, vehicles, miles traveled, and crashes;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the top contributing factors to crashes are following too closely, failing to yield,
10 losing control of the vehicle, and unsafe or illegal speed; and

11 WHEREAS, in fatal crashes, the top contributing factors are losing control of the vehicle,
12 alcohol or drug impairment, and unsafe or illegal speed; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, in 2001, one out
14 of six fatalities in this state occurred in a crash involving a large truck; and

15 WHEREAS, in almost 60 percent of the fatal crashes involving large trucks, the point of
16 impact was the front of the large truck; and

17 WHEREAS, of the fatalities that occurred in crashes involving at least one large truck, 85
18 percent of the people killed were occupants of the smaller vehicle compared with 15 percent
19 for the large truck occupants; and

1 WHEREAS, this enormous loss of life and infliction of serious injury impact not only the
2 health of our people but the well-being of our families through the loss or injury of parents
3 and children and the resulting effects of such loss on the family unit;

4 WHEREAS, these crashes also impact the health of the economy of this state through lost
5 productivity as a result of lost earnings, lost work, financial hardship, and traffic congestion;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, other states have passed laws requiring trucks to travel at a reduced speed limit
8 on the highways, and it is important to study the impact that these laws have made on public
9 safety.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 there is created the House Study Committee on Truck Safety on the Highways. The
12 chairperson of the House Committee on Transportation shall serve as the chairperson and
13 shall appoint two members of the House of Representatives and one person who is not a
14 member of the General Assembly as members of the committee. The Speaker of the House
15 of Representatives shall appoint one member of the House of Representatives and one person
16 who is not a member of the General Assembly as members of the committee. The committee
17 shall meet at the call of the chairperson. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
19 needs, issues, and problems set forth in this resolution and may recommend any actions or
20 legislation which the committee deems appropriate. The committee may conduct such
21 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
22 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
23 objectives and purposes of this resolution. Nonlegislative members of the committee who
24 are not public officials or employees shall receive from legislative funds a daily expense
25 allowance as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of
26 Georgia Annotated. Any nonlegislative public official or employee on the committee shall
27 receive no compensation from legislative funds but may be reimbursed for expenses actually
28 incurred. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from
29 the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances
30 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more
31 than five days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a
32 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,

- 1 such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand
- 2 abolished on December 31, 2004.