

House Resolution 1679 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representative Gardner of the 42nd, Post 3

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Truck and Highway Safety; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in the past ten years, over 15,000 people have lost their lives in this state in
3 motor vehicle crashes; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia has been in the top five states for the past five years for fatalities in
5 motor vehicle crashes involving large trucks; and
- 6 WHEREAS, crash data was recently released by the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle
7 Safety, the most recent data pertaining to 2001; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 2001, 1,656 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in this state
9 compared with 549 murders in the same time period; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 2001, 132,284 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes in Georgia, of
11 these 5,927 people received serious, incapacitating injuries such as traumatic head injuries,
12 paralysis, and internal bleeding; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Georgia's population has grown dramatically in the past decade and with the
14 growth in population has come an increase in drivers, vehicles, miles traveled, and crashes;
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, the top contributing factors to crashes are following too closely, failing to yield,
17 losing control of the vehicle, and unsafe or illegal speed; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in fatal crashes, the top contributing factors are losing control of the vehicle,
19 alcohol or drug impairment, and unsafe or illegal speed; and

1 WHEREAS, in Georgia in 2001, one out of six fatalities occurred in a crash involving a large
2 truck; and

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, these crashes also impact the health of the economy of this state through lost
12 productivity as a result of lost earnings, lost work, financial hardship, and traffic congestion.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 there is created the House Study Committee on Truck and Highway Safety to be composed
15 of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a
17 member of the House of Representatives who shall serve as chairperson of the committee.
18 The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
20 needs, issues, and problems set forth in this resolution and may recommend any actions or
21 legislation which the committee deems appropriate. The committee may conduct such
22 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
23 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
24 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the
25 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall
26 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
27 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
28 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
29 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
30 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2004. The committee shall stand abolished
31 on December 31, 2004.