

## House Resolution 428 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hill of the 21<sup>st</sup>, Scheid of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Byrd of the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Setzler of the 35<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Tobacco Tax Evasion; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there is a growing problem in Georgia with untaxed cigars and smokeless  
3 tobacco being brought into the state; and
- 4 WHEREAS, an infrastructure exists which is importing cigars from Florida, which has no  
5 tax on cigars; and
- 6 WHEREAS, legitimate Georgia wholesalers are losing millions of dollars in sales to such  
7 operations, causing a loss of jobs in this state; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is losing tobacco tax revenue because the tax is not being  
9 paid as required on products being imported into this state; and
- 10 WHEREAS, this loss has increased following the tax increase on cigars and the imposition  
11 of the tax on smokeless tobacco; and
- 12 WHEREAS, current policy and procedure makes the identification of imported products  
13 difficult to spot since, unlike cigarettes, neither cigars nor smokeless tobacco products are  
14 stamped.
- 15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
16 there is created the House Study Committee on Tobacco Tax Evasion to be composed of not  
17 more than five members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint not  
18 more than five members of the House of Representatives as members of the committee and  
19 shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings  
20 of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
7 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
8 Georgia Annotated. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall  
9 come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances  
10 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more  
11 than three days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a  
12 report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any,  
13 such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand  
14 abolished on December 31, 2006.