

House Resolution 205

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th and Burkhalter of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Cellular Phone Contract, Billing, and Rebate
2 Practices; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, more than 200 million Americans use cellular phones; and

4 WHEREAS, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data reveals that customers filed
5 25,942 complaints about wireless telecommunications in 2005, and more than half of these
6 complaints were billing and rate related; and

7 WHEREAS, data from the Council of Better Business Bureaus (CBBB) shows that
8 customers filed 31,671 complaints about cell phone companies in 2005, indicating that the
9 cell phone service and supplies business was the most complained about business in the
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, it is a common practice in the cell phone industry to lock consumers into
12 long-term contracts, which may account for some of the complaints; and

13 WHEREAS, a study should be conducted to investigate the contract, billing, and rebate
14 practices of the cellular phone industry in Georgia, how it affects the citizens of this state,
15 and other related issues.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
17 there is created the House Study Committee on Cellular Phone Contract, Billing, and Rebate
18 Practices to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives presently
19 serving on the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications and to be
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a
21 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
22 meetings 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 shall recommend any
3 actions or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee
4 may 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. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
9 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
10 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
11 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
12 its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
13 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand abolished
14 on December 31, 2007.