

House Resolution 609

By: Representatives Lunsford of the 110th, Lewis of the 15th, Martin of the 47th, Cox of the 102nd, Smith of the 113th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Prepaid Telecommunications Homeland Security
2 Interests; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, prepaid cellular users are reportedly expected to reach over 1.35 billion users
4 by 2009 with 59 percent of the total global wireless market; and

5 WHEREAS, there are unique concerns to prepaid cellular service including issues of user
6 anonymity inherent in the current prepaid service model which pose a threat to the security
7 of the citizens of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, the use of prepaid cell phones has been linked to terrorist activities, gang
9 activity, and drug dealing; and

10 WHEREAS, prepaid cell phones are notoriously hard to trace and provide a steady supply
11 of "clean" phone numbers making it difficult for law enforcement to pinpoint and keep track
12 of those engaging in drug trafficking and other illegal activities; and

13 WHEREAS, it has become public that some Al Qaeda militants used prepaid phones to
14 communicate with one another and that such phones were used in the 9/11 attack; and

15 WHEREAS, governments in other countries have taken action on this issue such as the Swiss
16 Bundesrat which requires that the personal details of all buyers be obtained and stored, the
17 government of Thailand which has made it mandatory for new prepaid phone users to
18 produce national identification cards when buying prepaid SIM cards, and the government
19 of Taiwan which allows each person only one SIM card; and

20 WHEREAS, there is no difference in how a prepaid cell phone and a regular phone operate
21 and, therefore, it is unclear why they should be sold differently or why such sales should be
22 taxed differently.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Study Committee on Prepaid Telecommunications Homeland
3 Security Interests to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Speaker of the House shall designate a member
5 of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of
6 the committee.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
8 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
9 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
10 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
11 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
12 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
13 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
14 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
15 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
16 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
17 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
18 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
19 report shall be made on or before the convening of the 2008 session of the General
20 Assembly, at which time the committee shall stand abolished.