

The Senate Transportation Committee offered the following substitute to SR 428:

A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Senate Railroad Safety and Security Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, rail transport is an energy efficient means of mechanized land transport that can
3 save energy compared with other forms of transportation; and

4 WHEREAS, under the right circumstances, a train needs 50 to 70 percent less energy to
5 transport a given tonnage of freight or given number of passengers than does road transport;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, much of today's shipping utilizes railroads to deliver goods through cargo
8 containers that combine railroads and trucks to get goods to their destinations; and

9 WHEREAS, this transportation mechanism contributes greatly to the American economy and
10 should be encouraged in light of the energy savings and efficiencies possible with its use; and

11 WHEREAS, since a significant amount of the goods in commerce move over the rails in our
12 state, we need to ensure the safety and security of such rail transport; and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to protecting the movement of freight in our state, railroads are
14 being viewed increasingly as a possible option for further alleviating traffic congestion and
15 commutes in our state and improving safety by reducing the number of automobiles on our
16 busiest highways; and

17 WHEREAS, all of these factors create a need for a close examination of railroad safety and
18 security and to determine if legislation is needed to ensure the continued safety and security
19 of rail transport in Georgia.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
21 Railroad Safety and Security Study Committee to be composed of five members of the

1 Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall designate one
2 of the members of the committee to serve as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson
3 shall call all meetings of the committee.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
5 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
6 or legislation that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
7 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
8 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
9 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
10 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
11 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
12 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
13 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event that the committee makes a report
14 of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
15 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2008. The committee shall stand abolished
16 on December 31, 2008.