

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HR 1305:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Comprehensive Firearms Law; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, current Georgia laws applicable to the carrying of firearms are extensive,
4 complex, ambiguous, scattered in various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia
5 Annotated, and frequently produce unintended results and confusion among Georgians who
6 carry firearms, law enforcement officers, and the courts; and

7 WHEREAS, firearms laws affect not only Georgia's 300,000 firearms license holders but
8 many other law-abiding residents of this state who exercise their constitutional right to keep
9 and bear arms under both the state and United States Constitutions, and the degree of
10 infringement of this constitutional right is important to many Georgia citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, there has not been in the past decade or longer a formal or comprehensive study
12 of firearms laws in Georgia for the purpose of making consistent and equitable
13 recommendations for changes to these statutory provisions; and

14 WHEREAS, applicable penalties for violations of these laws may constitute felonies with
15 punishments of up to life imprisonment and a \$100,000.00 fine; and

16 WHEREAS, many questions and concerns have been raised by Georgia citizens related to
17 the application of firearms laws, mandating a close reexamination of Georgia's firearms
18 laws; and

19 WHEREAS, many prominent associations in Georgia have developed quality
20 recommendations for improvements in Georgia's firearms laws; and

21 WHEREAS, in light of the above, it is now time to closely scrutinize and improve Georgia's
22 firearms laws.

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

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of Georgia's
8 firearms laws generally and the application of these laws to Georgia's peaceable and
9 law-abiding citizens to ensure that constitutional rights, the right of self-defense, and public
10 safety are properly protected and that persons involved in the firearms licensing process are
11 treated fairly and equitably. The committee shall make recommendations for changes in
12 legislation and shall provide copies of proposed legislation to be prepared by the Office of
13 Legislative Counsel and shall recommend any other action or make such report which the
14 study committee deems appropriate.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
16 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
17 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
18 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
19 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
20 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
21 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
22 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
23 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
24 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
25 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
26 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
27 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2008, at which time the committee shall
28 stand abolished.