

Senate Resolution 1299

By: Senator Heath of the 31st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update Standard 302 of the  
2 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has been tasked  
4 with the mission of saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing economic costs that result  
5 from road traffic crashes; and

6 WHEREAS, one of the most important ways in which the NHTSA carries out its mission is  
7 to issue Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS); and

8 WHEREAS, FMVSS 302 specifies the required burn resistance level for materials used in  
9 the occupant compartments of motor vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, the purpose of Standard 302 is to reduce the incidents of deaths and injuries to  
11 occupants of motor vehicles during a vehicle fire; and

12 WHEREAS, each year in the United States, there are approximately 306,000 car crashes  
13 which result in fires, the majority of which start in the engine compartment of the vehicle and  
14 spread to the passenger compartment; and

15 WHEREAS, vehicle fires result in approximately 360 deaths, 1125 injuries, and \$1.2 billion  
16 in property damage annually; and

17 WHEREAS, once the flames penetrate the passenger compartment during a vehicle fire, they  
18 spread rapidly and can result in passenger death in one to three minutes, while the  
19 nation-wide average response time for an ambulance to a car crash is ten minutes; and

20 WHEREAS, cost efficient technology currently exists that can slow the spread of flames  
21 from an engine compartment fire, thereby saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing  
22 economic costs; and

23 WHEREAS, FMVSS 302 was adopted in 1975 and does not reflect the fire hazards of the  
24 modern automobile nor the availability of technology that could slow the spread of fire  
25 throughout the vehicle.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 urge the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update Standard 302 of the  
28 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to reflect the modern automobile content and  
29 available technology that would prevent the rapid spread of flames during a vehicle fire in  
30 order to adequately protect vehicle drivers and passengers.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the State Fire Marshal, the Director of the  
33 Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic  
34 Safety Administration, and each member of the Georgia congressional delegation.