

Senate Resolution 184

By: Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Hudgens of the 47th, Hawkins of the 49th and Grant of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Boating Safety; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has abundant waterways which are invaluable to the health,
3 economic viability, and quality of life for all citizens and visitors; and
- 4 WHEREAS, our state waters include more than 100,000 miles of flowing streams, greater
5 than 500,000 acres of impounded waters, and about 100 linear miles of Atlantic Ocean
6 coastline; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a vital economic conduit for our state, these waterways
8 provide numerous recreational opportunities for a growing population of citizens and
9 visitors; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the economic impact of recreational boating to the state totals \$1.3 billion
11 annually, or \$3.5 million per day, and provides over 9,000 jobs; and
- 12 WHEREAS, recreational boating has experienced significant growth over the past 20 years,
13 nation wide and in the State of Georgia; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1986, there were 9.9 million registered vessels in the United States, and that
15 number increased to 13 million in 2006; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 1986 there were 225,812 registered vessels in Georgia and that number
17 increased to 337,569 in 2006; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in addition to the increased number of vessels, the population growth in Georgia
19 has resulted in rapid development of waterfront properties, including some of the most
20 valuable real estate in our state; and

21 WHEREAS, the five-year average in boating fatalities increased by 42 percent from 2003
22 to 2008; and

23 WHEREAS, recreational boating safety concerns have grown at a parallel rate with the
24 growth in population and numbers of boaters utilizing state waterways; and

25 WHEREAS, continued economic prosperity from use of our state waterways depends upon
26 providing citizens and visitors with a safe and secure outdoor recreational experience.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
28 Study Committee on Boating Safety to be composed of five members of the Senate appointed
29 by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the
30 committee as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of boating safety
32 issues, including but not limited to speed limits, boater education and outreach, vessel titling
33 and registration, use of personal flotation devices, charter boat requirements, and boating
34 safety enforcement. Furthermore, the committee may recommend any action or legislation
35 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct its
36 meetings at places and times it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to address fully
37 and effectively its responsibilities and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
38 resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided in Code
39 Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Members of the committee shall
40 not receive the allowances authorized by this resolution for more than five days unless
41 additional days are authorized. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
42 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee
43 makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed
44 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 15, 2009. The
45 committee shall stand abolished on December 15, 2009.