

Senate Resolution 654

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Mullis of the 53rd, Butler of the 55th, Fort of the 39th, Grant of the 25th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Legislative Solutions for the Safe Use of Cellular
2 Telephones In Motor Vehicles; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, studies show that motor vehicle collisions are a leading cause of death in North
4 America and the single most frequent cause of death among children and young adults, and
5 such accidents account for one fatality every ten minutes; and

6 WHEREAS, the various causes of motor vehicle collisions are complicated, but experts agree
7 that error due to driver distraction contributes to over 90 percent of such events; and

8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that the use of cellular telephones in motor vehicles
9 increases the risk of a serious accident four times above the normal risk during the time of
10 a call and this risk is even higher with a young, inexperienced driver; and

11 WHEREAS, this relative risk is similar to the hazard associated with driving with a blood
12 alcohol level above the legal limit; and

13 WHEREAS, while cellular telephones provide a vital link to sources of help in emergency
14 situations and are relied upon by Georgia residents for important communication needs,
15 unrestricted operation of a motor vehicle on the public roadways while using a cellular
16 telephone threatens public safety and the lives of all those driving on Georgia's roads; and

17 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the available evidence concerning the use of cellular
18 telephones while driving as well as the solutions found in other states and countries for
19 increasing public safety while preserving the needs of cellular telephone users is required in
20 order to develop the best possible legislative solution for Georgians.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
22 Study Committee on Legislative Solutions for the Safe Use of Cellular Telephones In Motor

23 Vehicles to be composed of five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of
24 the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a member of the committee to serve
25 as chairperson, and the chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
27 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
28 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
29 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
30 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
31 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
32 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
33 committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are
34 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
35 from the funds appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its
36 findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report
37 shall be made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on
38 December 31, 2009.