

Senate Resolution 690

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Mullis of the 53rd, Reed of the 35th and Staton of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Georgia Department of Transportation to develop a state rail plan; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has identified that rail is an important asset that
4 needs to be properly utilized and leveraged; and

5 WHEREAS, it is the intent of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation
6 develop a state rail plan that will address the present and future needs for rail for both
7 passenger and freight in this state and provide a strategy to address those needs; and

8 WHEREAS, the state rail plan will address the commuter, intercity, higher speed and high
9 speed rail services, freight capacity, as well as multimodal integration of rail with other
10 modes of transportation; and

11 WHEREAS, the state rail plan should be developed in accordance with Chapter 227 of Title
12 49 of the United States Code such that it will allow the state to access federal funds for rail
13 improvements. Without such a plan, the state has no ability to access federal rail monies; and

14 WHEREAS, it has been more than a decade since Georgia has undertaken a comprehensive
15 rail plan review; and

16 WHEREAS, other states have active rail planning efforts that examine freight and passenger
17 rail in an integrated fashion and now stand ready to access federal stimulus funding.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Department of
19 Transportation is requested to develop a state rail plan within 24 months that meets federal
20 requirements and will allow the state to access federal funds.

- 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Transportation.