

Senate Resolution 456

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Murphy of the 27th and Thomas of the 54th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on a Blood Pressure Down Shift Program; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, earlier in this decade, the United States Department of Transportation revised
4 the hypertension guidelines for obtaining a commercial driver's license; and

5 WHEREAS, there are many hidden medical dangers that can cause fatal accidents on the
6 road, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol; and

7 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia needs to provide a solution for this issue through the
8 Department of Driver Services by developing a customized program to identify health risks
9 in potential and current commercially certified drivers and to create new guidelines for
10 obtaining or renewing a commercial license which will include health risks of the applicant;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, a blood pressure down shift program would assist in identifying, preventing,
13 and containing the health risks that could lead to serious accidents on the roads and highways
14 of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, the Department of Driver Services is requested to adopt a program that educates
16 applicants on the health risks that could lead to an accident on the road and that creates new
17 standards for obtaining and renewing commercial licenses with a focus on identifying health
18 risks that could lead to accidents before such licenses will be issued; and

19 WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting Georgia's residents and visitors on the road, it is
20 fitting and proper to investigate and consider whether any improvements may be made to the
21 licensing process that will increase safety for all drivers.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
23 Study Committee on a Blood Pressure Down Shift Program to be composed of five members
24 of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate
25 shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson
26 shall call all meetings of the committee.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
28 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
29 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
30 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
31 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
32 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
33 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
34 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
35 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
36 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
37 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
38 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
39 made on or before December 1, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
40 1, 2009.