

Senate Resolution 822

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Stoner of the 6th, Pearson of the 51st, Murphy of the 27th, Jackson of the 24th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Georgia Department of Transportation to seek a waiver from the Federal
 2 Highway Administration in order to allow retail developments in rest areas along the
 3 interstate highway system; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the earliest form of rest areas for weary travelers appeared in the 1920's; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the rest areas travelers are familiar with today came into being after the 1956
 6 creation of the Interstate Highway System; and
- 7 WHEREAS, states have the responsibility for creating and maintaining rest areas; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration, in 23 C.F.R. Section 752.5, prevents the
 9 Georgia Department of Transportation from allowing the operation of commercial retail
 10 operations within rest areas along the interstate highway system; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia, in general, and the Georgia Department of Transportation,
 12 in particular, are experiencing an unprecedented downturn in the amount of funds available
 13 to maintain and operate rest stops along the interstate highway system; and
- 14 WHEREAS, one way to alleviate the cost to the state of maintaining and operating the rest
 15 stops would be to allow commercial retail operations to operate within the rest areas and to
 16 assume the cost for the operation and maintenance of such rest areas.
- 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 18 GEORGIA that the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Transportation to
 19 seek a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration in order to allow commercial retail
 20 operations in rest areas along the interstate highway system in this state.

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 commissioner of the Georgia
23 Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the United States Department of
24 Transportation, and the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.