

The Senate Transportation Committee offered the following substitute to SR 822:

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 certain commercial retail operations, excluding retail operations that
16 store or dispense motor fuel, to operate within the rest areas and to assume the cost for the
17 operation and maintenance of such rest areas.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA that the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Transportation to
20 seek a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration in order to allow commercial retail
21 operations in rest areas along the interstate highway system in this state.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the commissioner of the Georgia
24 Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the United States Department of
25 Transportation, and the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.