

House Resolution 113

By: Representatives Bearden of the 68th, Talton of the 145th, Cooke of the 18th, and Hanner of the 148th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House School Bus Safety Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, school bus drivers are entrusted with the lives and safety of many of Georgia's
3 children during potentially dangerous commutes to and from schools each school day; and
- 4 WHEREAS, these commutes are becoming longer and more hazardous due to an increase
5 in traffic congestion and a reduction in the number of available school buses; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the basic design of the large yellow school bus has not been changed since
7 1977, and many families of school bus accident victims, informed parents, the national PTA,
8 and multiple physician groups are demanding improvements in school buses and the use of
9 seatbelts on school buses; and
- 10 WHEREAS, many, if not all, of the NHTSA school bus safety reports presented to congress
11 obscure the absence of lateral and rollover protection by testing and evaluating school buses
12 entirely from a frontal accident configuration; moreover, such studies which have focused
13 on seat performance have led to conclusions that serve to exaggerate the safety of school
14 buses and imply a level of safety that is alleged by some to be invalid; and
- 15 WHEREAS, for more than 35 years, engineers have recommended use of a lap belt to
16 provide substantial additional protection to child passengers of school buses; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the absence of safety belts on school buses has led to substantial liability
18 imposed against state and local governments; and
- 19 WHEREAS, each year in this nation children are injured and killed in motor vehicle
20 accidents while riding school buses, and it is imperative that this body ensure that everything
21 that can be done is being done to prevent harm to Georgia's children.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the House School Bus Safety Study Committee is created, to be composed of five members
24 of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of
26 the committee. The chairperson 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 House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
38 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
39 report shall be made on or before December 1, 2011. The committee shall stand abolished
40 on December 31, 2011.