

Senate Resolution 31

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st, Williams of the 19th, Murphy of the 27th, Shafer of the 48th and others

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Transportation to prepare a list of contractors to be
2 utilized during weather emergencies and to preauthorize local governments to clear state
3 roads when necessary; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the weather emergency in the State of Georgia in January, 2011, which
5 paralyzed much of this state and the City of Atlanta has provided a learning opportunity for
6 preventing such gridlock in the future; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation does not have enough equipment and
8 personnel to efficiently clear the roadways in this state during a winter weather emergency,
9 and it would be impracticable for the department to maintain such an inventory of snow and
10 ice removal equipment; and

11 WHEREAS, there are multiple private contractors in this state who own and operate
12 equipment that could easily be adapted for use in clearing the roadways in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, the department needs to update its weather emergency response plan to include
14 an early call to these private contractors to mobilize and assist the department when needed;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, in addition, many local city and county governments have equipment and
17 personnel that are used to clear local roads during winter weather emergencies; and

18 WHEREAS, these local governments are already on site and could begin the cleanup of
19 many state routes prior to the arrival of crews from the Georgia Department of
20 Transportation; and

21 WHEREAS, it is only prudent for the department to authorize these local governments to
22 begin clearing ice and snow from state routes when they are able to do so; and

23 WHEREAS, the department needs to develop and implement a procedure to preauthorize
24 local governments to participate in the removal of snow and ice from state routes when an
25 emergency exists in this state; and

26 WHEREAS, the department needs to develop a list of qualified and responsible contractors
27 willing to assist with equipment and personnel when called upon by the department.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Georgia Department
29 of Transportation is urged to identify and qualify contractors willing to assist in weather or
30 other emergencies in order to prevent gridlock on the highways of this state. These
31 contractors should be financially responsible and able to capably perform the duties assigned
32 to them.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation is urged to
34 develop and implement a procedure to preauthorize local governments to clear snow and ice
35 from state routes during an emergency.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation is urged to
37 develop a multi-jurisdictional and intra-departmental integrated action plan which
38 coordinates state and local government efforts to remove snow and ice when an emergency
39 exists in this state and to safely direct the flow of traffic.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the commissioner of transportation and
42 the members of the State Transportation Board.