

House Resolution 2051

By: Representatives Powell of the 29th and Rice of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 To create the House Study Committee on Driver Education and DUI Risk Reduction
- 2 Programs; and for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, automobile accidents result in well over 1,000 fatalities each year in Georgia
- 4 and are the number one cause of injury to Georgia residents; and

- 5 WHEREAS, driver education schools and programs serve an important public safety purpose
- 6 by providing driver improvement, reducing traffic accidents, and ultimately preventing
- 7 injuries and saving lives on Georgia's highways; and

- 8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Driver Services is authorized to establish and
- 9 approve driver improvement clinics and programs; and

- 10 WHEREAS, traditionally many such driver education schools and DUI risk reduction
- 11 programs have been provided by licensed private entities at competitive low rates; and

- 12 WHEREAS, the recent developments of both court established alternative schools, which
- 13 maintain a monopoly-like local control over pretrial intervention driver education programs,
- 14 and local public school programs, which use tax funds to unfairly compete with private
- 15 entities, have eroded and threaten the financial viability of private driver education schools
- 16 and DUI risk reduction programs; and

- 17 WHEREAS, the continued viability of driver education schools and DUI risk reduction
- 18 programs in this state is an essential component of the ongoing battle to prevent traffic
- 19 related injuries and fatalities; and

- 20 WHEREAS, the driver education laws of Georgia, like those of other states, have received
- 21 numerous sporadic, piecemeal revisions over the years, and these changes too frequently

22 have been made in an isolated context without due regard for the overall traffic safety needs
23 of the criminal justice system; and

24 WHEREAS, a study and the formulation of recommendations for driver education programs
25 can best be carried out through an established committee; and

26 WHEREAS, a careful and comprehensive study should be undertaken to determine how best
27 to modernize and organize Georgia's driver education schools and risk reduction programs
28 and ensure the continued viability of these important safety measures for all Georgians.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 there is created the House Study Committee on Driver Education and DUI Risk Reduction
31 Programs to be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed
32 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of
33 the committee as chairperson of the committee. All meetings of the committee shall be at
34 the discretion of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
36 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
37 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
38 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
39 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
40 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
41 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
42 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall be received by the
43 members of the committee for such days as are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out
44 the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of
45 Representatives. The committee shall be abolished on January 1, 2013, and shall provide a
46 report and recommendations, if any, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives prior to
47 such date.