

House Resolution 1160

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137th, Bentley of the 139th, Jackson of the 128th, Pullin of the 131st, Moore of the 1st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Motor Carrier Inspections; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Motor Carrier Compliance Enforcement Section of the Department of
3 Public Safety is tasked with ensuring that trucks traveling throughout Georgia comply with
4 state and federal laws and are in safe operating condition; and
- 5 WHEREAS, an officer in the Motor Carrier Compliance Enforcement Section may inspect
6 a motor carrier for compliance with law at a weigh station or stop a vehicle during its travel;
7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, when a motor carrier is pulled over for an inspection during travel, the driver's
9 travel logging and schedule are impacted and the risk of accidents for other motorists on the
10 road increases; and
- 11 WHEREAS, study is necessary to determine whether it is in the best interest of safety to
12 require such officers to only inspect motor carriers at designated weigh stations or if
13 scheduled inspection appointments can be performed on motor carrier property; and
- 14 WHEREAS, an analysis of how other states balance the benefits of safety inspections with
15 the business and convenience interests of motor carriers may help with determining if
16 legislative action is warranted; and
- 17 WHEREAS, study of the enforcement of motor carrier standards is needed prior to legislative
18 changes because federal highway funds for the state could be impacted; and
- 19 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine what training officers of the Motor Carrier
20 Compliance Enforcement Section receive, how often such training is administered and
21 updated, and whether such training takes into account the latest vehicle and technological
22 advances used by motor carrier operators.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

24 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
25 on Motor Carrier Inspections.

26 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
27 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives. The Speaker shall also appoint an additional five nonlegislative
29 members of the committee, with one member who possesses expertise in the operations
30 of a major Georgia port and one member with expertise in the transportation of each of
31 the following commodities:

32 (A) Agriculture;

33 (B) Timber;

34 (C) Oil; and

35 (D) Mined natural materials.

36 The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

37 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
38 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
39 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

40 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
41 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
42 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
43 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

44 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

45 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
46 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

47 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
48 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
49 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
50 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
51 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

52 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
53 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
54 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
55 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
56 employees.

57 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
58 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
59 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds

60 appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement
61 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the
62 reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated
63 to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

64 **(6) Report.**

65 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
66 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
67 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
68 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

69 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
70 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
71 of this paragraph.

72 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
73 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
74 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
75 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

76 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
77 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
78 thereof.

79 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.