

House Resolution 1126

By: Representatives Evans of the 57th, Holland of the 54th, Schofield of the 60th, and Jones of the 25th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Motor Vehicle Equipment and Public Safety; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, motor vehicles with faulty or illegal exhaust systems or mufflers can produce
4 excessively loud noise levels which disturb the peace and tranquility of communities; and

5 WHEREAS, while state law prohibits excessive or unusual muffler noises, the Official Code
6 of Georgia Annotated does not specify what decibel level qualifies as an excessive or unusual
7 noise; and

8 WHEREAS, because no specific level is set forth in law, police officers have trouble
9 determining if a violation has occurred and prosecutors lack sufficient evidence to prosecute
10 these types of cases; and

11 WHEREAS, technology exists today that would assist police officers with the enforcement
12 of excessive noise levels through the use of microphones and cameras; and

13 WHEREAS, other areas of Georgia law are currently enforced through the issuance of civil
14 monetary penalties for illegally passing a school bus or speeding in a school zone when such
15 violation is evidenced by a camera; and

16 WHEREAS, a study would be beneficial to determine what changes to Georgia law are
17 needed to best aid police officers in enforcing excessive motor vehicle noise laws as well as
18 a study on neighboring states' laws to determine the most appropriate noise levels by vehicle
19 type; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia law does not currently provide for front of vehicle license plates; and

21 WHEREAS, studies show that requiring license plates on both the front and rear of vehicles
22 improves public safety; and

23 WHEREAS, front of vehicle license plates allow police officers to see license plates on
24 vehicles approaching them, increasing police officers' ability to apprehend criminals; and

25 WHEREAS, a study is needed on what changes would be necessary throughout the Official
26 Code of Georgia Annotated to require front of vehicle license plates, whether such a
27 requirement is in the best interest of public safety, and the costs and feasibility of such a
28 change to state law.

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

30 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
31 on Motor Vehicle Equipment and Public Safety.

32 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following
33 members:

(A) Five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(B) The commissioner of public safety or his or her designee;

(C) The state revenue commissioner or his or her designee;

(D) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association or his or her designee; and

(E) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia or his or her designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia

Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state employees.

(D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective agencies.

(6) Report.

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

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

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

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

(7) Abolishment. The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2022.