

The Senate Committee on Public Safety offered the following substitute to SR 216:

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in Georgia have risen from 11 percent to 19
3 percent over the past 15 years; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia ranked as the sixth-most dangerous state for pedestrians, according
5 to 2022 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data; and
- 6 WHEREAS, under Georgia law, striking a pedestrian is often treated as a minor offense
7 unless injuries meet the high threshold of serious; and
- 8 WHEREAS, serious injuries are frequently underreported when comparing police crash
9 reports to Department of Public Health hospital impact and emergency room visit data in the
10 Georgia Emergency Medical Services Information System and the Georgia Trauma Registry;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, some laws relating to traffic violations bureaus have not been amended in more
13 than 50 years and thus allow defendants to bypass court appearances and accountability,

14 leaving victims, including pedestrians and cyclists, without the opportunity to present victim
15 impact statements; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's infrastructure budgets and plans should be reviewed to ensure
17 investments are being made in safety countermeasures to reduce roadway fatalities and
18 injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, study of Georgia law is needed to determine appropriate penalties for harming
20 vulnerable roadway users and to improve enforcement mechanisms, including revisions to
21 violations of law handled in traffic violations bureaus.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

23 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
24 on Vulnerable Roadway Users.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
26 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate one
27 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

35 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

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

38 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
39 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
40 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
41 appropriated to the Senate.

42 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

54 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
55 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

56 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.