

House Resolution 209

By: Representatives Carson of the 46th, Lumsden of the 12th, Collins of the 71st, Hitchens of the 161st, Carter of the 93rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rates; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number
4 of fatal traffic accidents on Georgia roads is increasing, with over 1,800 deaths in 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia experienced a roughly 18 percent increase in motor vehicle
6 related fatalities between 2017 and 2021; and

7 WHEREAS, there was, approximately, a 3.8 percent increase in the number of deaths
8 reported on Georgia's highways between 2021 and 2022, a figure dramatically higher than
9 the average for the United States, which reported a 0.2 percent increase; and

10 WHEREAS, highway fatalities in Georgia reached the highest level in years despite an
11 overall decrease in the number of drivers on the road due to the pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, unsafe driving behaviors are the leading cause of death upon roads in this state;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, study is needed to examine Georgia's traffic fatalities and crashes, analyze
15 trends, and make comparisons to other states' motor vehicle crash fatality rates and laws to
16 determine if legislative action is warranted in this state.

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

18 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
19 on Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rates.

20 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
21 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
23 of the committee.

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

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

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

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

34 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
35 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
36 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
37 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

38 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

53 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.