

House Resolution 348

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Evans of the 57th, and Holland of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Excessive Vehicle Noise and Related Crimes; 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 state's laws to determine the most appropriate noise levels by vehicle
19 type.

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

21 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
22 on Excessive Vehicle Noise and Related Crimes.

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

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

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

34 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
35 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
36 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
37 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

38 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
39 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

40 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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