

House Resolution 282

By: Representatives Carson of the 46th, Nimmer of the 178th, Smith of the 134th, Parsons of the 44th, and Shaw of the 176th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Distracted Driving; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, research shows that more drivers have been taking to the roads over the past six
3 years, which means more miles driven and results in an increase in likelihood of accidents;
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, not only have the number of overall accidents increased over the past decade,
6 but the number of accidents per 100 insured vehicles has increased as well; and
- 7 WHEREAS, fatal auto accidents are rising faster in Georgia at nearly three times the national
8 rate; and
- 9 WHEREAS, highway deaths in Georgia are now at their highest level since 2007; and
- 10 WHEREAS, one possible cause of this dramatic increase in accidents and fatality crashes in
11 Georgia may be due to distracted driving; and
- 12 WHEREAS, with new technology being introduced every day, distracted driving is a major
13 traffic safety issue; and
- 14 WHEREAS, more than 220 million people in the United States subscribe to wireless
15 services, and it is estimated that as many as 80 percent of those subscribers use their phones
16 while driving; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the most common concern regarding distracted driving is the potential
18 distraction caused by cell phones and other technology in the car; and

19 WHEREAS, study is necessary to determine if legislative changes are warranted to Georgia's
20 rules of the road to further restrict the use of technologies while driving which could result
21 in an accident.

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

23 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
24 on Distracted Driving.

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

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

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

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

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

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

43 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

58 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.