

Senate Resolution 296

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Jones II of the 22nd, Still of the 48th, Harrell of the 40th and Jackson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate 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 SENATE:

21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate 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 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall
25 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

37 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
38 appropriated to the Senate.

39 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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