

Senate Resolution 570

By: Senator Thompson of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Use and Sale of State Public Information; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, state public information is by name a public record and should be available for
4 public review by individuals or business entities; and

5 WHEREAS, there are instances where the State of Georgia enters into contractual
6 agreements with single entity private vendors and cedes controlling interests in state public
7 information to those vendors; and

8 WHEREAS, vehicle identification number (VIN) and police-reported accident information
9 is critical for facilitating informed buying of used cars in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, such information is a key component of educating consumers as to damage to
11 vehicles and deployment of air bags; and

12 WHEREAS, a private vendor should not monopolize access to such state information, the
13 disclosure of which promotes public safety and protects consumers; and

14 WHEREAS, an exclusive vendor agreement for such state information has the potential to
15 imperil consumers, including denying them access to state public information that serves to
16 protect and inform; and

17 WHEREAS, an exclusive agreement for public information stifles market innovation when
18 new and existing companies managing such information are given complete authority to
19 determine which other businesses may access such public information for their products and
20 services, and under what terms; and

21 WHEREAS, policies supporting disclosure of public information through an open records
22 request process would serve to foster accountability in government and awareness by the
23 public; and

24 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study of how to best promote open access
25 to vehicle crash data in light of existing technological advancements and whether any
26 changes need to be made to current state law in this area.

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

28 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
29 on the Use and Sale of State Public Information.

30 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
31 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
32 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

47 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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