

Senate Resolution 692

By: Senators Williams of the 25th, Dixon of the 45th, Harbin of the 16th, Hodges of the 3rd, Hickman of the 4th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Transporting Students Safely Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, providing for the education of Georgia students is among the most important
3 responsibilities of the General Assembly; and
- 4 WHEREAS, an essential part of providing for education is keeping students safe, not only
5 when they are at school, but also when they are being transported to and from school; and
- 6 WHEREAS, on February 1, 2024, a tragic accident occurred in Henry County, where an
7 eight-year-old elementary school student was fatally struck by a passing vehicle while she
8 was crossing a street to get on her school bus to go to school; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a June, 2023, report by the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration
10 found that from 2012 to 2021 there were 998 fatal school transportation related crashes, and
11 1,110 people of all ages were killed in those crashes—an average of 111 fatalities per year.
12 The same report found that of the 206 school-age children who died in school transportation
13 related crashes from 2012 to 2021, 78 were pedestrians; and

14 WHEREAS, a study would be beneficial to examine current issues impacting the ability of
15 the schools, communities, and families to ensure our school children are transported safely
16 each day to and from school.

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

18 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Transporting
19 Students Safely Study Committee.

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

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

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

30 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee shall receive the allowances
31 provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The
32 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
33 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
34 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
35 appropriated to the Senate.

36 (6) **Report.**

37 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
38 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the

39 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
40 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

50 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.