

Senate Resolution 216

By: Senators Parent of the 44th, Albers of the 56th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Jackson of the 41st, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in the United States have risen from 11 percent
3 to 19 percent over the past 15 years; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia ranked as the sixth-most dangerous state for pedestrians, according
5 to 2022 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data; and
- 6 WHEREAS, under Georgia law, striking a pedestrian is often treated as a minor offense
7 unless injuries meet the high threshold of serious; and
- 8 WHEREAS, serious injuries are frequently underreported when comparing police crash
9 reports to Department of Public Health hospital impact and emergency room visit data in the
10 Georgia Emergency Medical Services Information System and the Georgia Trauma Registry;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, some laws relating to traffic violations bureaus have not been amended in more
13 than 50 years and thus allowing defendants to bypass court appearances and accountability,

14 leaving victims, including pedestrians and cyclists without the opportunity to present victim
15 impact statements; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's infrastructure budgets and plans should be reviewed to ensure
17 investments are being made in safety countermeasures to reduce roadway fatalities and
18 injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, study of Georgia law is needed to determine appropriate penalties for harming
20 vulnerable roadway users and to improve enforcement mechanisms, including revisions to
21 violations of law handled in traffic violations bureaus.

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

23 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
24 on Vulnerable Roadway Users.

25 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of the following members
26 to be appointed by the President of the Senate:

27 (A) Five members of the Senate;

28 (B) The commissioner of transportation or his or her designee;

29 (C) A member of Propel ATL;

30 (D) A member of GO Georgia; and

31 (E) A municipal traffic court judge.

32 The President of the Senate shall designate a legislative member of the committee as
33 chairperson of the committee.

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

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

41 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

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

44 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
45 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
46 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
47 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
48 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

49 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
50 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
51 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
52 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
53 employees.

54 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
55 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
56 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
57 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
58 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the
59 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
60 available to their respective agencies.

61 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

69 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
70 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

71 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
72 the Secretary of the Senate.

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

75 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.