

House Bill 1032

By: Representatives McBee of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Murphy of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Walker of the 141<sup>st</sup> and Buck of the 135<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Secretary of State, so as to create the Office of International Protocol and Citizenship  
3 Assistance; to provide for the powers, duties, and authority of the Secretary of State and the  
4 Office of International Protocol and Citizenship Assistance; to provide an effective date; to  
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Secretary  
9 of State, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Article 6 to read as follows:

10 "ARTICLE 6

11 45-13-100.

12 The Office of International Protocol and Citizenship Assistance is established within the  
13 office of the Secretary of State. The office shall be under the management and control of  
14 the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is authorized to employ such assistants and  
15 perform such acts as may be necessary to discharge the powers and duties provided by this  
16 article.

17 45-13-101.

18 The Secretary of State and the Office of International Protocol and Citizenship Assistance  
19 are authorized to:

20 (1)(A) Greet and welcome new members of the consular corps and other foreign  
21 dignitaries when they arrive in Georgia and facilitate as much as possible the clearing  
22 of U. S. customs and the resolution of problems of taking up residence based on the  
23 Vienna Convention on Consular Relationships;

- 1 (B) Establish a viable and consistent consular registration program;
- 2 (C) Act as the agent of the state in making introductions of members of the consular
- 3 corps and other foreign dignitaries to officials of the State of Georgia;
- 4 (D) Serve as the sole office where foreign diplomats and dignitaries can go for
- 5 information and assistance in all governmental, political, cultural, and economic
- 6 matters;
- 7 (E) Keep all members of the consular corps informed of all activities of state
- 8 government that would be of special interest to them and extend invitations to attend
- 9 official functions;
- 10 (F) Produce and maintain an official Georgia consular directory;
- 11 (G) Maintain an active dialogue with foreign countries that have dealings with
- 12 Georgia;
- 13 (H) Encourage additional countries to establish career consulates in Georgia;
- 14 (I) Establish a system of communication to provide state and local government officials
- 15 with information about the rights and privileges of foreign citizens;
- 16 (J) Maintain an active dialogue with foreign countries that historically have
- 17 associations with Georgia and keep them apprised of proper procedures;
- 18 (K) Serve as the secretariat for the consular corps and the consular liaison office in the
- 19 spirit of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relationships;
- 20 (L) Advise the Governor and other Georgia officials on individual protocol with regard
- 21 to the consular corps and foreign travel; and
- 22 (M) Perform such other activities in coordination with the office of the Governor as
- 23 will enhance the relationship of the State of Georgia with foreign nations; and
- 24 (2)(A) Assist and, where consistent with federal law, facilitate the efforts of individuals
- 25 who wish to become citizens of the United States; and
- 26 (B) Establish communications, where possible, with newly naturalized citizens to
- 27 advise them of their rights to vote and of the procedures for registering to vote."

## 28 **SECTION 2.**

29 This Act shall become effective when funds are appropriated and made available to carry out

30 the provisions of this Act.

## 31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.