

## Senate Resolution 278

By: Senators Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Haines of the 46<sup>th</sup>, Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> and Hamrick of the 30<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to extend course credit to  
2 undergraduate students who receive training for service as election poll officers and who  
3 serve as poll officers during elections; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the strength of any democratic society lies in the education, enlightenment, and  
5 participation of its citizens; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the continuity and vitality of any democratic society lies in the informed  
7 participation on many levels of its citizens; and
- 8 WHEREAS, it is the goal of the State of Georgia to encourage and to enlarge the numbers  
9 of its citizens who actively and regularly participate in the democratic process and who  
10 accept with eagerness and enthusiasm the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic  
11 society; and
- 12 WHEREAS, many national studies have shown that the greater an individual's level of  
13 education, the greater their participation in the democratic process from volunteerism to  
14 voting to holding elected office; and
- 15 WHEREAS, such participation dramatically increases with education, as the National Center  
16 for Education Statistics has documented in its analysis of the 1992 U.S. presidential election,  
17 where it found that voting rates for those with less than a high school diploma were 27  
18 percent, while voting rates for those with four or more years of college were 78.5 percent;  
19 and
- 20 WHEREAS, the University System of Georgia, with its 34 individual campuses, various  
21 centers, more than 200,000 students and 30,000 employees, is ideally suited to help promote  
22 the goals, duties, and responsibilities of good citizenship to the people of the State of  
23 Georgia.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges the Board  
2 of Regents of the University System of Georgia to implement a policy whereby course credit  
3 is extended to any undergraduate student of a public college or university in this state who  
4 receives the requisite training for service as an election poll officer and who serves as a poll  
5 officer during an election.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate encourages the University System of  
7 Georgia's Student Advisory Council to actively work to make students aware of the benefits  
8 of good citizenship by fostering their participation in student government activities,  
9 volunteering in their local communities, and participating in the democratic process through  
10 the exercise of their voting rights; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate encourages the University System of  
12 Georgia's faculty and staff through their daily interaction with students to serve as both role  
13 models and guides in the education of students regarding the duties and benefits of  
14 citizenship.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
16 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the University  
17 System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia's Student Advisory Council.