

House Bill 458

By: Representatives Casas of the 68th, Moraitakis of the 42nd, Post 4, Mosby of the 59th, Post 3, Burkhalter of the 36th, Stoner of the 34th, Post 1, and others

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 position of the director of protocol and international
3 affairs; to provide for the duties and functions of such director; to provide for related matters;
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

9 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 6

10 45-13-101.

11 There is created in the office of the Secretary of State the position of director of protocol
12 and international affairs. The director shall be under the control and supervision of the
13 Secretary of State. The director shall be appointed as are other employees in the office of
14 the Secretary of State. The director may have such additional staff assigned as shall be
15 determined by the Secretary of State.

16 45-13-102.

17 (a) The director of protocol and international affairs shall have the responsibility and duty:

18 (1) To serve as Georgia's designated person for the enhancement and coordination of
19 foreign affairs and diplomacy;

20 (2) To foster global relationships, provide a world class support system for Georgia's
21 international activities, promote international cultural and educational exchanges, and
22 encourage international economic development;

23 (3) To ensure that Georgia remains competitive in the global economy by its use of
24 diplomatic, educational, and cultural tools;

- 1 (4) To offer leadership, coordination, and direction to Georgia's citizens and
2 international counterparts;
- 3 (5) To assist in the development and implementation of consular and diplomatic
4 programs, sister city and sister state programs, and international liaison programs to
5 enable every region of Georgia to share and become involved in new international
6 challenges;
- 7 (6) To serve as Georgia's international contact for the Georgia congressional delegation
8 and federal agencies;
- 9 (7) To serve as liaison for the state with all foreign consular and ambassadorial corps,
10 as well as international organizations, that are consistent with the purposes of this article;
- 11 (8) To directly advise, assist, and support the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and
12 Secretary of State on official matters of national and international protocol and in the
13 planning, hosting, and officiating of related ceremonial events and activities for visiting
14 foreign dignitaries;
- 15 (9) To provide advice, when necessary, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary
16 of State, and General Assembly on matters related to protocol and ceremonial functions;
- 17 (10) To create and update the various diplomatic lists used by such office;
- 18 (11) To prepare and send invitations to the official acts of the Governor, Lieutenant
19 Governor, Secretary of State, and General Assembly to the various consulates and
20 foreign dignitaries within the state;
- 21 (12) To act as a liaison between the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of
22 State and the members of the consular corps in this state, along with their support staff
23 and their families, on matters related to diplomatic privileges and immunities and assist
24 in the registration of such individuals with government agencies as required; in the
25 obtaining and renewing of visas; with tax exemptions; in obtaining diplomatic license
26 plates, driver's licenses, and work permits for family members; and in any unusual
27 problems that the consulates encounter or may develop;
- 28 (13) To assist in customs clearance for the consular corps, for diplomats, and for foreign
29 dignitaries;
- 30 (14) To keep the office of the Secretary of State informed of changes in the cabinets of
31 governments of the consular corps and of other developments which might require the
32 attention of the office of the Secretary of State;
- 33 (15) To cause to be published the Georgia Directory of Consulates once a year; and
- 34 (16) To be responsible for official correspondence announcing the appointment of new
35 consul-generals and representatives to the various foreign consulates and for informing
36 the appropriate state agencies and departments of such appointments."

1 **SECTION 2.**

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