

## House Resolution 358

By: Representatives Ashe of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Post 2, Henson of the 55<sup>th</sup> and Drenner of the 57<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children Services to  
2 adopt specific Farm Bill 2002 state options to provide access to the federal food stamp  
3 program for low-income Georgians; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has experienced more job losses than any other state during  
5 the last twelve months; and
- 6 WHEREAS, 22 percent of Georgia children live in households at or below the federal  
7 poverty line; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has determined that only 56  
9 percent of eligible Georgians receive federally funded food assistance through the food stamp  
10 program; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the loss of these federal dollars to local grocery retail businesses and  
12 low-income Georgians can range from \$300 million and \$350 million; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the income from the federally funded food stamp program supports Georgia's  
14 food industry; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the fundamental purpose of the federally funded food stamp program is to  
16 provide food and nourish low-income children and their families; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has the opportunity to increase the number of children  
18 enrolled in the federally funded food stamp program while supporting welfare-to-work  
19 efforts by low-income parents.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
21 the members of this body call upon the Department of Human Resources to adopt and

1 implement the following food stamp program state options: provide five months of  
2 transitional food stamps for TANF recipients; institute categorical exemptions for the value  
3 of the first vehicle owned by otherwise food stamp eligible households; support personal  
4 savings by excluding the value of Individual Development Accounts and Individual  
5 Retirement Accounts from household food stamp budget calculations; annually request and  
6 implement labor surplus waivers for all eligible Georgia jurisdictions; provide for an annual  
7 review and renewal of the standard utility allowance; and exempt all senior citizens from the  
8 face-to-face interview requirement.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor, the  
11 Commissioner of Human Resources, and the Director of the Division of Family and Children  
12 Services.