

Senate Resolution 228

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Reed of the 35th, Squires of the 5th, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Georgia Department of Human Resources to adopt specific Farm Bill 2002 state
2 options to provide access to the federal Food Stamp Program for low-income Georgians; and
3 for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has experienced more job losses than any other state during
5 the last 12 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
10 Stamp 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 to \$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 to 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 SENATE that the members of this body
21 call upon the Georgia Department of Human Resources to adopt and implement the

1 following Food Stamp Program state options: five months of transitional Food Stamps for
2 TANF recipients; categorical exemptions for the value of the first vehicle owned by
3 otherwise food stamp eligible households; support for personal savings by excluding the
4 value of Individual Development Accounts and Individual Retirement Accounts from
5 household food stamp budget calculations; annual requests for and implementation of Labor
6 Surplus Waivers for all eligible Georgia jurisdictions; annual review and renewal of the
7 Standard Utility Allowance; and exemption of all senior citizens from the face-to-face
8 interview requirement.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Governor and the Commissioner of
11 Human Resources.