

## 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.