

Senate Resolution 240

By: Senator Clay of the 37th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to create a commission in cooperation with the Governor of South
2 Carolina to study the feasibility of creating a Joint Port Authority for the Port of Savannah;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the port of Savannah was the site of the establishment of the Colony of Georgia;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the Savannah River is the navigable river that serves the Port of Savannah; and

7 WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina borders the northern side of the Savannah River;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jasper County, South Carolina, borders the Savannah River on the north; and

10 WHEREAS, both the State of Georgia and the State of South Carolina have established port
11 authorities to govern all port related activities in their states; and

12 WHEREAS, competition for shipping business has been a long accepted tradition between
13 the Port of Savannah and the Port of Charleston; and

14 WHEREAS, both states are intent on supporting the future development of their respective
15 ports; and

16 WHEREAS, both the State of Georgia and the State of South Carolina are dependent on the
17 economic benefits derived from the activities of each respective port authority; and

18 WHEREAS, the ever increasing size of ships is requiring both ports to continually deepen
19 their respective rivers which serve their ports; and

1 WHEREAS, the environmental factors affected by such river deepening is becoming a major
2 obstacle to be overcome by each port prior to deepening their respective port rivers; and

3 WHEREAS, there may be certain benefits to be realized by both states sharing information
4 regarding a proposed port operation on both the north and south sides of the Savannah River;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of both states to cooperate with each other's economic
7 activities along the border shared by both states.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 GEORGIA that the Governor is urged to create by executive order, in cooperation with the
10 Governor of South Carolina, a bilateral port commission to study jointly the advantages and
11 disadvantages of creating, by means of an interstate compact, a Joint Port Authority to
12 oversee and control port activities on the Savannah River, to estimate the costs and financial
13 arrangements related to such authority, and to issue a report to the Governors and legislatures
14 of the respective states as soon as is practicable.

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 Governor.