

Senate Resolution 672

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd, Bulloch of the 11th, Tate of the 38th and Clay of the 37th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging parents in this state to take their children with them to vote; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, 63 percent of American adults voted in the 1972 general election but that
3 number dropped to 51 percent in the closely contested 2000 Presidential campaign; and
- 4 WHEREAS, among young people, voter participation has reached alarming lows with about
5 one-half of all college students registered to vote, but only about 20 percent actually voting;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, Georgia was the first state in the nation to give 18 year olds the right to vote in
8 1943; and
- 9 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that the voter participation of Americans between
10 the ages of 18 and 24 has fallen by at least 13 percentage points since 1972 when all 18 year
11 olds were given the right to vote by an amendment to the United States Constitution; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the under-25 age group is becoming more and more detached from the electoral
13 process; and
- 14 WHEREAS, reversing this precipitous decline in election participation by young people is
15 obviously crucial to the continued vitality of American democracy; and
- 16 WHEREAS, a wealth of social science research suggests that parents have a major role in
17 shaping their children's future voting habits; and
- 18 WHEREAS, one such recent study shows that 75 percent of young adults who grew up with
19 political discussion at home are registered to vote and that young people whose parents
20 regularly voted are twice as likely to vote as their peers; and

1 WHEREAS, the survey also showed that parents who discuss politics with their children,
2 who take their children to vote, and who make a habit of voting regularly raise children who
3 volunteer, vote, and are otherwise actively engaged in civic and community activities.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that parents in this state are
5 urged to take their children with them to vote and the members of the General Assembly are
6 urged to publicize this resolution in their communities and to encourage their constituents
7 to vote and to include their children in the voting process.