

Senate Resolution 682

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Harbison of the 15th, Hall of the 22nd, Thomas of the 10th, Brown of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Henry McNeal Turner Tribute Commission and authorizing the placement of
2 a statue on the grounds of the state capitol building; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Henry McNeal Turner was born near Abbeville, South Carolina, in 1834 and
4 was ordained to preach in 1853; and

5 WHEREAS, during the Civil War, he became the first African American to hold the position
6 of chaplain in the U.S. Army, and after the war he was active in Georgia state politics and
7 he served in the General Assembly; and

8 WHEREAS, when African Americans were expelled from the General Assembly in 1868,
9 he delivered a rousing oratory in protest of their treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, he became the 12th A.M.E. Bishop in 1880, and for 12 years he served as
11 chancellor of Morris Brown College, now Morris Brown University, and he donated land in
12 Atlanta for the construction of a school for African American children; and

13 WHEREAS, it is only right that this great man in Georgia history be recognized.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 GEORGIA:

16 **SECTION 1.**

17 (a) There is created the Henry McNeal Turner Tribute Commission to be composed of 11
18 members selected as follows:

19 (1) Two members appointed by the Governor, with a chairperson and vice chairperson
20 to be designated by the Governor from among these members;

21 (2) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) One member appointed by the Georgia Senate Committee on Assignments and one member each to be appointed by the Georgia Senate Majority and Minority Leaders; and

(4) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives and one member each to be appointed by the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Georgia House of Representatives.

(b) Membership on the commission shall not constitute the holding of a public office and the members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

(c) The commission shall exist for an indefinite term as may be necessary to complete its work and shall be dissolved by resolution of the commission upon completion of its work.

SECTION 2.

The commission is authorized to:

(1) Provide for the commissioning of a statue of Henry McNeal Turner, the same to be accomplished solely through voluntary contributions to the commission or such fund or funds as it may establish or designate for such purpose;

(2) Provide for the selection and design of an appropriate placement for such statue on or adjacent to the grounds of the Georgia state capitol building, provided that the site selected and the design of the placement shall be approved by the State Properties Commission;

(3) Solicit and accept gifts, donations, and grants in furtherance of its purposes; and

(4) Work cooperatively with any private group, organization, association, or corporation having the same general purpose as the commission.

SECTION 3.

Upon completion of the commission's work, the Governor shall be authorized to accept and provide for the dedication of a statue of Henry McNeal Turner to be placed on or adjacent to the grounds of the state capitol building.