

## House Resolution 1403

By: Representatives White of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Post 2, Massey of the 24<sup>th</sup>, Amerson of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Joyce of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mills of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Post 2, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the display of the Ten Commandments and the acknowledgment of God by  
2 local governments and the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence declares that governments are instituted to  
4 secure certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, with  
5 which all human beings are endowed by their Creator and to which they are entitled by the  
6 laws of nature and of nature's God; and

7 WHEREAS, the organic laws of the United States Code and the Constitutions of every state,  
8 using various expressions, recognize God as the source of the blessings of liberty; and

9 WHEREAS, the Preamble of the Georgia Constitution affirms that the people of Georgia  
10 relied upon "the protection and guidance of Almighty God" in ordaining and establishing the  
11 Constitution of the State of Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, Section 45-13-41 of the Georgia Code acknowledges the Ten Commandments  
13 as one of the "nationally recognized documents which contributed to the history of the State  
14 of Georgia"; and

15 WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments have been foundational to the development of the  
16 fundamental legal principles of every government in the history of Western Civilization, and,  
17 are, indeed, the foundation of the system of law and justice of the United States of America,  
18 including the legislative process and deliberations of our state legislature; and

19 WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments set forth a code of moral conduct, observance of which  
20 is universally acknowledged to promote respect for our system of laws and the good of  
21 society; and

1 WHEREAS, this code of moral conduct states:  
2 I. I am the LORD thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
3 II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.  
4 III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.  
5 IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
6 V. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the  
7 LORD thy God giveth thee.  
8 VI. Thou shalt not kill.  
9 VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
10 VIII. Thou shalt not steal.  
11 IX. Thou shalt not commit false witness against thy neighbor.  
12 X. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.  
13 ; and

14 WHEREAS, on September 25, 1789, the day that Congress approved the First Amendment  
15 to the U.S. Constitution, Congress resolved to direct a committee to "wait upon the President  
16 to request that he recommend to the people a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be  
17 observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of All Mighty  
18 God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a constitutional  
19 government for their safety and happiness"; and

20 WHEREAS, the public display of the Ten Commandments is an acknowledgment of God's  
21 sovereignty over civil government and President George Washington stated in his first  
22 executive order that "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of  
23 All Mighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His  
24 favor and protection"; and

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 in order to remind our citizens of the significance of the Ten Commandments and in order  
27 to acknowledge God as the source of human liberties, this body encourages the local officials  
28 of this state to appropriately display the Ten Commandments and a copy of this resolution  
29 or any part thereof in local government facilities where the public gathers.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the Governor of Georgia to  
2 appropriately display in the capitol any monument or tablet containing the Ten  
3 Commandments which may be presented to the Governor or the state for such purpose.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House shall transmit an appropriate  
5 copy of this resolution to the Governor and make copies readily available to the local  
6 officials of the State of Georgia.