

Senate Resolution 127

By: Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Thomas of the 54th, Cagle of the 49th, Pearson of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia's drug courts; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the way courts once dealt with drug offenders was to impose fines, jail time,
3 and probation; but spurred by overcrowded jails and a recidivism rate of over 50 percent in
4 the first two or three years after conviction, judicial pioneers have sought new, more effective
5 treatment; and

6 WHEREAS, the result was drug treatment courts, which combine intensive judicial
7 supervision, mandatory drug testing, rewards for progress, immediate and escalating
8 sanctions for noncompliance, and long-term treatment and counseling to help break the cycle
9 of addiction; and

10 WHEREAS, the program works, with a recidivism rate in jurisdictions with drug treatment
11 courts ranging from four to 28 percent as compared to a national recidivism range in the
12 neighborhood of 50 percent; and

13 WHEREAS, in a team effort involving law enforcement, judges, district attorneys, probation
14 services, case managers, treatment providers, and defense attorneys, emphasis is on fast
15 intervention and a hands on program consisting of three stages: stabilization, intensive
16 treatment, and transition; and

17 WHEREAS, the most lasting lesson participants learn is that each person is responsible for
18 his or her actions and choices, and ultimately only the individual can turn his or her life
19 around; and

20 WHEREAS, the many unsung heroes working in drug treatment courts have the satisfaction
21 of knowing they are making a tangible difference, not only in the fabric of society, but also
22 in the lives of real people who deserve a second chance.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 commend the drug treatment courts in this state and the many selfless people who labor on
3 behalf of their fellow citizens.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
5 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.