

Senate Resolution 326

By: Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Williams of the 19th, Hill of the 32nd, Stephens of the 27th, Pearson of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and

5 WHEREAS, every state and federal public official is "bound by Oath or Affirmation to
6 support this Constitution"; and

7 WHEREAS, it is the duty of a court or judge to interpret the law, not to make the law; and

8 WHEREAS, to prohibit the recognition of God not only contradicts the purpose of the First
9 Amendment to the United States Constitution, but also is an unlawful order and extrajudicial
10 in nature; and

11 WHEREAS, the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment requires only that "Congress
12 shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and does not prohibit public
13 acknowledgments of God; and

14 WHEREAS, a public monument, display, or framed picture of anything, including the Ten
15 Commandments, whether hung on a wall or displayed in a public area or hallway, cannot be
16 a "law" simply because it appears in a public building; and

17 WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments, which is the foundational moral code for our nation,
18 in part states:

19 I. I am the LORD thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

20 II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

21 III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.

22 IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

- 1 V. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the
2 LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 3 VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- 4 VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 5 VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- 6 IX. Thou shalt not commit false witness against thy neighbor.
- 7 X. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's; and

8 WHEREAS, "religion" under the First Amendment is defined as "[t]he duty which we owe
9 to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it," and while a display of the Ten
10 Commandments certainly lists several duties owed to the Creator, it does not dictate the
11 manner of discharging these duties, such being left to the purview of conscience; and

12 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, our Nation's charter, is filled with
13 recognitions of a Providential God Who has endowed us with "certain unalienable rights";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, every state constitution acknowledges God, and the Constitution of Georgia is
16 no exception; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court is to make a ruling using, for the first time,
18 oral arguments and written briefs on the merits of displaying the Ten Commandments in
19 public places.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 GEORGIA that, in order to remind our citizens of the constitutionality of publicly displaying
22 the Ten Commandments in government buildings, this body encourages our citizens to
23 support the public display of the Ten Commandments and other historical documents that
24 acknowledge God in the founding and establishing of our nation.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the Governor of Georgia to
26 continue to support those public displays of the Ten Commandments that already exist in our
27 state, as well as promote the practice of displaying the Ten Commandments in public
28 buildings as an appropriate way to acknowledge God, the moral foundation of our laws.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body exhorts the United States Supreme Court to
2 follow the historical intent of the framers of the Constitution, as is testified by the
3 Congressional record, and restore the original intent of the First Amendment.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
5 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Governor and the United States
6 Supreme Court, and to make copies readily available to the local officials of the State of
7 Georgia.