

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to SR 88:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Henry McNeal Turner; recognizing his contributions as worthy of a memorial;  
2 creating the Joint Commission for Recognition of Public Servants; 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 that the members of this body recognize the tremendous achievements and  
16 accomplishments of Henry McNeal Turner and honor his memory for his service to this  
17 nation.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the General Assembly that some  
19 memorial to the memory of Henry McNeal Turner is appropriate and that further study to  
20 determine the best method of honoring his service and that of other public servants is  
21 appropriate.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

2 (1) The General Assembly finds that:

3 (A) Over the years the General Assembly has recognized distinguished and deserving  
4 public servants through various means, including the commissioning and placement of  
5 statues and paintings; and

6 (B) To date there has not been a consensus as to the best way to honor such persons, and  
7 the result has been inconsistent and diverse honors and memorials; and

8 (C) The public would be well served if a commission were established to oversee the  
9 process of honoring our state's leaders and heroes in a predictable and dignified way so  
10 the public, and in particular our youth, can both remember those so honored and learn and  
11 take inspiration from their achievements, contributions, and sacrifices; and

12 (2) There is created the Joint Commission for the Recognition of Public Servants to be  
13 composed of eight members as follows: one member appointed by the Governor, whose  
14 appointee shall be the chairperson; the director of the Georgia Capitol Museum; the  
15 director of the Georgia Building Authority; and the director of the Georgia Council for the  
16 Arts; additionally, two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives, and two members shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on  
18 Assignments, with one member from each designated as co-vice chairperson. The  
19 commission shall undertake a study of the need for a permanent commission to establish  
20 methods for honoring distinguished and deserving public servants and shall make  
21 recommendations to that end. The commission may conduct such meetings at such places  
22 and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and  
23 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of  
24 this resolution. The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances  
25 authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall receive the  
26 same for not more than six days unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary  
27 to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the  
28 House of Representatives and Senate. The commission shall make a report of its findings  
29 and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the Governor,  
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Committee on Assignments  
31 on or before December 1, 2005. The commission shall stand abolished on December 1,  
32 2005.