

## Senate Resolution 1090

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Brown of the 26th, Mullis of the 53rd, Fort of the 39th, Rogers of the 21st and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Civil Rights Commission; to provide for creation, composition, membership,  
 2 terms of office, officers, and expense allowance of the commission; to provide for powers  
 3 and duties of the commission; to provide for designation of civil rights movement historic  
 4 sites as the Civil Rights Trail of Georgia; to provide for interpretation of historic sites under  
 5 certain conditions; to provide for assignment of the commission to the Department of  
 6 Economic Development for administration purposes only; to provide for the Department of  
 7 Economic Development furnish certain personnel to assist the commission; to provide for  
 8 an annual report of the commission's activities; to provide for other matters relative to the  
 9 commission; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 WHEREAS, the time is right to commemorate the state's role in the civil rights movement  
 11 by establishing a network of historic sites and an opportunity to honor the past and ride the  
 12 coming wave of heritage tourism; and

13 WHEREAS, the civil rights movement in the American South was one of the most  
 14 significant and successful social movements in the modern world. Georgians formed part  
 15 of this movement for full civil rights and the wider national struggle for racial equality; and

16 WHEREAS, the trail of events touched every corner of the state; from Rome to Savannah  
 17 are many historic resources and sites; and

18 WHEREAS, the historic sites, museums, and events need to be recognized and established  
 19 as the Civil Rights Trail of Georgia and this commission shall be established to bring about  
 20 the coordinated efforts to make this a reality; and

21 WHEREAS, there is widespread interest to preserve and promote civil rights movement  
 22 period historic sites and events and to use these resources to encourage and support tourism  
 23 and economic development.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

3 **SECTION 1.**

4 That there is created the Civil Rights Commission, hereafter referred to as the commission,  
5 to coordinate, plan, preserve, and promote the Civil Rights Trail of Georgia which shall  
6 contain significant sites associated with individuals and events of this significant period of  
7 our common heritage.

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 (a) That the commission is directed to:

- 10 (1) Develop a civil rights trail plan. This plan will promote heritage tourism and provide  
11 for currently established sites to work together to promote these sites as part of the trail;  
12 (2) Preserve and interpret the legacy of the civil rights movement in Georgia;  
13 (3) Recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations in the conduct  
14 of the civil rights movement in the State of Georgia; and  
15 (4) Encourage the establishment of reference sections relating to the Civil Rights Trail  
16 of Georgia in high schools and encourage heritage education programs.

17 (b) That, in carrying out its purposes, the commission is authorized:

- 18 (1) To accept loans or grants, or both, of money, materials, or property of any kind from  
19 the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof upon such terms  
20 and conditions as the United States of American or such agency or instrumentality may  
21 impose;  
22 (2) To receive and accept loans, gifts, grants, donations, or contributions of property,  
23 facilities, or services, with or without consideration, from any person, firm, or corporation  
24 or from the State of Georgia or any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any county,  
25 municipal corporation, or local government or governing body; and  
26 (3) To hold, use, administer, and expend such sums as may hereafter be received as  
27 income, as gifts, or as appropriations by authority of the General Assembly for any of the  
28 purposes of this commission.

**SECTION 3.**

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2 That the commission is assigned to the Department of Economic Development for  
3 administrative purposes only. The commissioner of economic development shall appoint  
4 personnel within the Department of Economic Development to facilitate the functions of the  
5 commission.

**SECTION 4.**

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7 (a) (1) That the commission shall consist of 15 members to be appointed as follows:

8 (A) The Governor shall appoint five members;

9 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members; and

10 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members.

11 (2) That members shall serve for the one-year existence of this commission.

12 (b) That members of commission shall serve without compensation.

13 (c) That members of the commission shall be representative of all the geographic areas of  
14 the state and shall be selected from the state at large with special consideration given to  
15 appointment of persons associated with those groups or organizations with a demonstrated  
16 interest in the civil rights movement and the establishment of a civil rights trail in Georgia.

17 (d) That the National Black Arts Festival shall be requested to act as a consultant to this  
18 commission.

19 (e) That the commission shall file a report with the Governor and the General Assembly  
20 containing a summary of accomplishments, findings, and recommendation, with any  
21 suggestions for proposed legislation, if any. Such report shall be made on or before  
22 December 31, 2006.

23 (f) That the commission shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.

**SECTION 5.**

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25 That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.