

Senate Resolution 1185

By: Senators Tarver of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, Harbison of the 15th, Brown of the 26th and Stoner of the 6th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging that all offices of Boards of Registrars be open for no less than eight hours on the last
2 day citizens may register to vote in the next election to encourage and promote the
3 participation of all eligible citizens in the electoral process; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the right to vote is one of our most important and cherished freedoms and is the
5 cornerstone of our liberty; and

6 WHEREAS, a citizen's right to vote is the surest guarantee of a society that embraces
7 diversity and equality by giving each individual a voice in the future of the country; and

8 WHEREAS, it is the goal of the State of Georgia to encourage and to enlarge the numbers
9 of its citizens who actively and regularly participate in the democratic process and who
10 accept with eagerness and enthusiasm the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic
11 society; and

12 WHEREAS, states that accommodate citizens in registering as electors enjoy higher levels
13 of civic participation in their elections; and

14 WHEREAS, some citizens of Georgia have experienced difficulties in registering to vote
15 before the registration cut-off date due to offices of the Boards of Registrars being closed and
16 such hindrances to registration must be removed, investigated, and addressed; and

17 WHEREAS, in Heard County, the office of the Board of Registrars closed at 9:30 A.M. on
18 the last day to register to vote and participate in the 2005 municipal elections, causing
19 several persons who attempted to register that day to be unable to vote in the municipal
20 elections; and

1 WHEREAS, opening all offices of the Boards of Registrars for no less than eight hours on
2 the last day to register and participate in the next election will help to ensure that all eligible
3 citizens who wish to vote may do so.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
5 urge all offices of Boards of Registrars to be open for no less than eight hours on the last day
6 for citizens to register to vote and participate in the 2006 elections.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
8 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Georgia Election Officials Association,
9 the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office, and the chairperson and members of
10 the board of commissioners of Heard County.