

House Resolution 1052 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Tumlin of the 38th, Stephens of the 164th, Casas of the 103rd, Jenkins of the 8th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing Georgia's state owned resorts and restaurants which serve wine to list the fine
2 wines grown and produced by the Winegrowers Association of Georgia; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, North Georgia is fast becoming a prominent winegrowing region, with the
5 addition of eight new vineyards and wineries in the last five years and more in the planning
6 stages; and

7 WHEREAS, this scenic part of our state boasts the perfect terrain for the cultivation of
8 European vinifera as well as hybrid and native American wine grapes; and

9 WHEREAS, these farm wineries have formed a nonprofit organization, the Winegrowers
10 Association of Georgia, and are attracting visitors from all over Georgia and neighboring
11 states along the Georgia Wine Highway, recently designated by the state Department of
12 Transportation; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia wines have won hundreds of awards and medals in national and
14 international competitions, and the vineyards have attracted the attention of local and
15 national media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, CNN,
16 Turner South, *Southern Living*, *Georgia Trend*, *Points North*, *Northeast Georgia Living*, and
17 *Macon* magazines, *Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles* and other state and regional publications;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the States of Virginia and North and South Carolina are officially promoting
20 their winegrowing industries, and the Georgia Economic Development Council has also
21 shown interest in promoting Georgia viticulture and wines along with local convention and
22 visitors bureaus, civic organizations, and private entities who are sponsoring annual wine
23 festivals; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia wines are now featured in top restaurants, gourmet shops, and beverage
2 stores across the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the North Georgia wine industry represents an example of agri-tourism at its
4 best by creating jobs in the agricultural, manufacturing, hospitality, and retail sectors of local
5 economies, thereby making a considerable contribution to local government tax bases where
6 tourism is a vital part of the economy.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body direct the state Department of Economic Development and the state
9 Department of Natural Resources, which oversees many state owned resorts that serve wine,
10 including Smithgall Woods, Blackshear Resort, Unicoi State Park Lodge, Little Ocmulgee
11 Lodge, Redtop Mountain Lodge, and George T. Bagby Lodge, direct such facilities to work
12 with the Winegrowers Association of Georgia to assure that their guests have a choice of
13 Georgia wines among other wines they offer visitors.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the appropriate state
16 officials in the above-mentioned departments as well as to the managers of resorts and
17 restaurants and to independent state authorities such as the Jekyll Island—State Park
18 Authority which manage similar state owned facilities.