

## Senate Resolution 101

By: Senators Pearson of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd, Rogers of the 21st, Schaefer of the 50th, Murphy of the 27th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the extraordinary career of Mr. Craig Lesser on the occasion  
2 of his retirement as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Craig Lesser has played an instrumental role in the growth and  
5 diversification of commerce in the State of Georgia through his inspirational leadership,  
6 diligent service, and conscientious management; and

7 WHEREAS, he is a graduate of the State University of New York College at Oneonta and  
8 the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser was appointed to the Georgia Department of Economic  
11 Development by Governor Sonny Perdue in 2004, whereupon he led efforts to recruit new  
12 businesses to Georgia from around the nation and internationally; and

13 WHEREAS, his leadership was instrumental to such landmark accomplishments as the  
14 founding of a KIA Motors Company assembly plant in LaGrange, Georgia, and the  
15 establishment of the Georgia Tourism Foundation, a partnership fostering tourism throughout  
16 the state; and

17 WHEREAS, he supervised a number of state programs for small business and entrepreneurs  
18 and facilitated efforts to market Georgia as an ideal destination spot for filmmakers, the  
19 music industry, and multimedia companies; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser has previously served as Vice President of Government and  
21 Regulatory Affairs for Georgia Power Company, President and CEO of Mirant New York,  
22 and Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Mirant Americas; and

1 WHEREAS, his present and previous affiliations include Board of Directors Chair for the  
2 Georgia Centers of Innovation, the Georgia Tourism Foundation, Georgia Chamber of  
3 Commerce, the OneGeorgia Authority, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and  
4 the Tech High Foundation, and Emory University's Board of Visitors; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser leaves the Georgia Department of Economic Development to accept  
6 a critical leadership position for McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP, heading up the firm's  
7 newly established International Public Affairs practice; and

8 WHEREAS, McKenna Long & Aldridge is an international law firm of more than 400  
9 lawyers and public policy advisors with offices in ten cities on two different continents; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lesser is highly esteemed by his colleagues for his professional  
11 commitment and magnanimous force of character; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is honored to have such a motivated and competent  
13 individual as one of its citizens.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
15 join in commending Mr. Craig Lesser for his outstanding career in public service,  
16 congratulating him on his new appointment, and extending to him the best of wishes for a  
17 golden tomorrow.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
19 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Craig Lesser.