

Senate Resolution 240

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Pearson of the 51st, Johnson of the 1st, Williams of the 19th, Chapman of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with the People's Republic of
- 2 China; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, there is a bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and China, and the
- 4 people of Georgia welcome opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels
- 5 including cultural, academic, and business; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud that Georgia based companies such as the Coca-Cola
- 7 Company, United Parcel Service, Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, Inter-Continental Hotels,
- 8 John Portman & Associates, CNN, AJC International, Inc., GE Energy, Char-Broil,
- 9 Concurrent Computer Corporation, and Micrometrics have operations in China; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud that a growing number of Chinese companies such as COSCO
- 11 North America, Kingwasong LLC, Yat Ming USA, Inc., Ecotech Machinery, Inc., and New
- 12 West International, Inc. have operations in Georgia; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Economic Development will soon open an economic
- 14 development office in Beijing; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the China Governance and Development Program of the International Center
- 16 for Democratic Governance with the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia foster
- 17 strong ties between Georgia and China by providing governmental training and technical
- 18 assistance to visiting delegations of Chinese officials on an annual basis; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Kennesaw State University is home to the China Research Center, the
- 20 SINO-American Education Consortium, the Center for International Programs, and the
- 21 Chinese Proficiency Testing Center; and

1 WHEREAS, many other Georgia colleges and universities also have ties with China, among
2 them Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University,
3 Georgia State University, and Valdosta State University; and

4 WHEREAS, approximately 1,500 Chinese students study in Georgia universities, 140
5 Chinese faculty members work in Georgia's universities, and 331 students from Georgia have
6 participated in numerous study abroad and student exchange programs with Chinese
7 universities; and

8 WHEREAS, China is a top destination for Georgia exports, totaling over \$979 million with
9 top exports including paper, food products, minerals, ore, nonmetallic mineral products,
10 forestry products, textiles, and textile mill products; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia imports over \$8.2 billion from China through the Savannah Customs
12 District with top imports including industrial and electrical machinery, furniture, toys, games,
13 iron and steel products, and plastics; and

14 WHEREAS, two-way trade to and from China flowing through Georgia's ports of Atlanta,
15 Brunswick, and Savannah total over \$12 billion, ranking Georgia as the sixth largest port
16 in the United States for imports and exports with China and the second largest port on the
17 East Coast; and

18 WHEREAS, Savannah ranks sixth among U.S. container ports in Asian imports and ranks
19 second among U.S. East Coast ports in imports from China with 65 percent of all Asian
20 based cargo transiting into the U.S. South Atlantic moving through Savannah; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Ports Authority and the Shanghai International Port Group signed
22 an agreement to promote jointly all-water shipping routes and trade opportunities between
23 Shanghai and the Port of Savannah; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to the Georgia China Alliance, the Atlanta Chapter
25 of the National Association of Chinese Americans, The Chinese Business Association of
26 Atlanta, the Association of Chinese Professionals, the Hong Kong Association of Atlanta,
27 and the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce; and

1 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines is seeking approval to operate a daily nonstop flight from
2 Atlanta to China which, if approved, will have an economic impact of \$400 million on the
3 Southeastern United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Atlanta and all of Georgia would be honored to be selected to serve as the home
5 of the next Consulate General of the People's Republic of China; and

6 WHEREAS, the 2008 Olympic Games which will be hosted by China create opportunities
7 for Georgia companies similar to those created when Atlanta hosted the Olympic Games in
8 1996.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
10 hereby recognize the special friendship between Georgia and the People's Republic of China
11 and express our appreciation to his Excellency Zhou Wenzhong, the Ambassador of China,
12 for his efforts to promote peace and grow commercial, cultural, and educational ties between
13 our two nations.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to his Excellency Zhou Wenzhong and
16 Counselor Li Liansheng.