

Senate Resolution 831

By: Senator Hill of the 32nd

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, Governor Sonny Perdue will travel to China on a mission of peace and good
7 will to formally open an economic development office in Beijing; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines won approval to operate a daily nonstop flight from Atlanta to
11 Shanghai which will have an economic impact of \$400 million on the southeastern United
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta will host The First Emperor: China's
14 Terracotta Army from November 16, 2008, through April 26, 2009, a once in a lifetime
15 exhibition which includes more than 120 objects, some of which are new discoveries, and
16 includes 23 life-size figures of warriors, horses, and government officials — the largest
17 grouping of these objects China has ever loaned; and

18 WHEREAS, several Georgia cities have begun formal activity to finalize Sister City
19 relationships with numerous cities in China; and

20 WHEREAS, the 2008 Olympic Games which will be hosted this year by China will create
21 opportunities for Georgia companies similar to those created when Atlanta hosted the
22 Olympic Games in 1996; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud that Georgia based companies such as the Coca-Cola
2 Company, United Parcel Service, Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, Inter-Continental Hotels,
3 John Portman & Associates, CNN, AJC International, Inc., GE Energy, Char-Broil,
4 Concurrent Computer Corporation, and Micrometrics have operations in China; and

5 WHEREAS, celebrating 30 years of successful Chinese economic reform since 1978,
6 Georgia is proud that a growing number of Chinese companies such as COSCO North
7 America, Kingwasong LLC, Yat Ming USA, Inc., Ecotech Machinery, Inc., SANY
8 AMERICA, General Protecht, and New West International, Inc. have operations in Georgia;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the China Governance and Development Program of the International Center
11 for Democratic Governance with the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia foster
12 strong ties between Georgia and China by providing governmental training and technical
13 assistance to visiting delegations of Chinese officials on an annual basis; and

14 WHEREAS, Kennesaw State University is home to the China Research Center, the
15 SINO-American Education Consortium, the Center for International Programs, and the
16 Chinese Proficiency Testing Center; and

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

20 WHEREAS, approximately 1,500 Chinese students study in Georgia universities, 140
21 Chinese faculty members work in Georgia's universities, and 331 students from Georgia have
22 participated in numerous study abroad and student exchange programs with Chinese
23 universities; and

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

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

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to the Georgia China Alliance, the Atlanta Chapter
12 of the National Association of Chinese Americans, the Chinese Business Association of
13 Atlanta, the Association of Chinese Professionals, the Hong Kong Association of Atlanta,
14 and the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
16 hereby recognize the special friendship between Georgia and the People's Republic of China
17 and express our appreciation to Her Excellency Qiao Hong, the Consul General of China,
18 Houston Consulate, for her efforts to promote peace and grow commercial, cultural, and
19 educational ties between our two nations.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body urge
21 President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to take all necessary
22 diplomatic actions to facilitate the selection of Atlanta by the government of the People's
23 Republic of China as the home of the next Chinese Consul General office in the United
24 States.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Her Excellency Qiao Hong.