

Senate Resolution 862

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Williams of the 19th, Adelman of the 42nd, Balfour of the 9th, Unterman of the 45th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with the State of Israel; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Israel
4 that inspires the people of Georgia to stand with the people of Israel in solidarity and
5 welcome all opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels, including
6 cultural, academic, and business endeavors; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to serve as home to the Israeli Consulate General for the
8 Southeast; and

9 WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the 5th day of Iyar, Jewish representatives from all over
10 Palestine met in the Tel Aviv Museum where David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's
11 independence, and in the following four months, some 50,000 newcomers, mainly Holocaust
12 survivors, reached Israel's shores; and

13 WHEREAS, May of 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel; and

14 WHEREAS, during those 60 years, Israel has stood as the only beacon of democracy and
15 freedom in the region and has always been a true friend to the people of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be the home of over 45 Israeli companies that employ more
17 than 2,000 people; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Economic Development operates an established
19 trade office in Israel; and

20 WHEREAS, the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ra'anana, Israel, are official sister cities; and

1 WHEREAS, the 2008 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival sold 15,000 tickets to its 12 days of
2 movies at three locations, smashing the 2007 record of 9,000, tickets, making Atlanta's
3 festival the number two Jewish film festival in the nation behind San Francisco and making
4 the festival the most attended film festival of any kind in Atlanta; and

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Institute of Technology is involved in a joint initiative with Israel
6 in developing nanotechnology, a research sector in which Israel is emerging as a global
7 leader; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia State University and the Georgia International Law Enforcement
9 Exchange have an established program with law enforcement agencies in Israel; and

10 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have a
11 program to close the gap of time between acts of terror and governmental response by
12 studying the ways in which a society that has long been subject to political violence has
13 addressed the effects of such violence on its peoples; and

14 WHEREAS, Israel is a top export destination for Georgia with exports totaling over \$212
15 million, including transportation equipment, paper, computer and electronics equipment,
16 beverages and tobacco products, and machinery; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia imports over \$337 million from Israel through the Savannah Customs
18 District with top imports, including optical, surgical, and photo equipment; organic
19 chemicals; furniture; electrical machinery; and plastics; and

20 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines connects Georgia and Israel with regular flight service,
21 providing the opportunity for business and cultural relationships to grow; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be a leader in the Israel Bonds program; and

23 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust works to draw lessons from the
24 history of the Holocaust in order to help lead new generations of Georgians beyond racism
25 and bigotry; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to chapters of the American Israel Chamber of
27 Commerce, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Committee,

1 the Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, and the Jewish National
2 Fund.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
4 hereby recognize the special friendship between Georgia and Israel and express our
5 appreciation to his Excellency Ambassador Mansour for his tireless efforts to promote peace
6 and grow the business, cultural, and educational ties between our two nations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the members of this body extend congratulations to
8 the people of Israel on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and
9 reaffirm their strong support of the Israeli people and the God given right of the State of
10 Israel to exist and offer their full support and prayers.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby encourages further cultural,
12 educational, and business exchanges between citizens of Georgia and Israel and welcomes
13 all opportunities to develop the special bond of friendship between Georgia and Israel.

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 Ambassador Mansour.