

House Resolution 1794

By: Representative Coan of the 101st

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering and honoring the life of John Lawrence; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recently lost one of its most dedicated public servants with
3 the passing of John Lawrence; and

4 WHEREAS, in a career spanning nearly two decades, John Lawrence devoted himself to his
5 work at the Georgia Department of Labor becoming one of the foremost leaders in the
6 department's labor market information development, interpretation, and use; and

7 WHEREAS, the information that he provided allowed state and local businesses as well as
8 government officials to make well-informed decisions over the years he served; and

9 WHEREAS, he was respected as a top notch statistical analyst who provided assistance to
10 employers and members of the General Assembly in understanding the complexities of
11 Georgia's unemployment insurance program, and his work and data support on the
12 unemployment tax holiday in 1999 played a vital role in the passage of that legislation saving
13 this state's employers over \$1 billion dollars; and

14 WHEREAS, his keen sense of vision of the economy together with his depth of
15 understanding of the financing of the unemployment insurance program earned him
16 significant respect from employers, state officials, and colleagues throughout the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, his unique ability to present statistical data and findings in a manner that was
18 understandable to the ordinary person was a hallmark of his talents; and

19 WHEREAS, he received his associate of arts degree from Gainesville College in 1986 and
20 his bachelor of arts degree from Georgia State University in 1988 and began as an associate
21 statistical analyst with the Department of Labor in 1990, rising quickly to Labor Market
22 Information Manager in 1995 and Assistant Division Director in 1997; and

23 WHEREAS, with his towering 6 foot 8 inch frame, "Big John" was a gentle giant who
24 preferred the role of adviser to that of being in the spotlight; and

25 WHEREAS, he was always soft-spoken but with an amazing depth of content in what he had
26 to say, reflecting his intelligence and the fact that he was well-read; and

27 WHEREAS, his unparalleled organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
28 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, his dedication to whatever task he was assigned, and
29 his acute sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of his community and state earned him the
30 respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

31 WHEREAS, the passing of this generous, kind, and devoted individual leaves an unfillable
32 void in the hearts and lives of all who knew him.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of "Big
35 John" Lawrence and extend their most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of John
38 Lawrence.