

Senate Resolution 431

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Pearson of the 51st, Thomas of the 54th, Bulloch of the 11th and Fort of the 39th

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia contains countless sites relating to the American Civil War
3 era, including antebellum, military, civilian, African American, women's, Reconstruction,
4 and other significant history; and

5 WHEREAS, many of these historic sites would be greatly enhanced, both educationally for
6 our children and as tourist attractions, if properly interpreted on site and adequately
7 promoted; and

8 WHEREAS, by dividing the entire state into six historic regions—the Chickamauga & Atlanta
9 campaigns, the March to the Sea, the pursuit of Jefferson Davis, Wilson's Raid, the Northeast
10 Georgia mountains, and South Georgia's agricultural bounty—a comprehensive history of
11 Georgia's Civil War era can be told through the creation, marketing, and maintenance of six
12 historic driving trails; and

13 WHEREAS, beginning in 2000, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of dedicated Georgians
14 known as Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails began working on the development of six such
15 historic driving trails; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails has already raised over \$1 million in federal
17 grants, plus hundreds of thousands more in both private and public funds, involving well over
18 100 Georgia city and county jurisdictions to date, plus thousands of Georgia's citizens, and
19 has begun the installation of approximately 300 historic interpretive markers, over 2,000
20 roadway directional trailblazer signs, the construction of several roadside parking pull-off
21 areas, and the initial printing of over one million new educational/tourist brochures with an
22 informative website (www.gcwht.org); and

23 WHEREAS, in order for Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails to continue toward full
24 development and success, it needs the continuing cooperation of the Georgia Department of
25 Transportation, of other state agencies, and of local municipalities across the State of
26 Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia, having joined in financially assisting the efforts of Georgia
28 Civil War Heritage Trails, desires to avoid wasting any taxpayer funds by duplicating
29 Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails in any manner or form and to avoid confusing Georgia's
30 citizens, guests, and tourists by the duplication of names, titles, logos, signage, routes, or any
31 other distinguishing characteristics of a Civil War era historic driving trail.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
33 GEORGIA that the six driving trails already in either development or planned by Georgia
34 Civil War Heritage Trails are to be designated as the official state-wide Civil War Era
35 Historic Driving Trails of Georgia.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails shall have the sole
37 authority to plan, construct, and maintain Civil War era historic driving trails upon any
38 roadway in the State of Georgia.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and all other state
40 agencies are authorized and directed to work cooperatively with Georgia Civil War Heritage
41 Trails state-wide in the latter's creation and placement of appropriate historic interpretive
42 markers, roadway directional trailblazer signage, roadside parking pull-offs, and various
43 marketing materials, including specifically along any state and federal designated highways
44 in all six regions state-wide in which Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails conducts its
45 activities.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and other state
47 agencies are further authorized and directed to work cooperatively with Georgia Civil War
48 Heritage Trails in any other areas of the state not specifically mentioned in this resolution.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation, the
51 Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Natural Resources.