

Senate Resolution 992

By: Senators Hawkins of the 49th, Balfour of the 9th, Hill of the 32nd, Butterworth of the 50th, Cowsert of the 46th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the need for transparency in the federal legislative process and urging the
2 United States Congress to enact a single-subject rule for federal legislation; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, transparency in government is a bedrock principle of representative
5 government; and

6 WHEREAS, the passage of a bill which affects a multitude of unrelated subjects hides the
7 aims and effects of such a bill; and

8 WHEREAS, such obfuscation diminishes the public faith in elected representatives and
9 representational democracy in general and shields individual accountability of those who
10 author, advocate, and vote for provisions within such a bill; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has for over a century recognized the danger such practices
12 pose to both good policy and democratic values; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has therefore enacted a single-subject rule that prohibits
14 the passage of any bill that creates or amends two or more unrelated public laws; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution similarly forbids the enactment of any spending
16 provision in any bill other than one dedicated solely to budgetary matters; and

17 WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Georgia and the several United States look upon a
18 Congress which suffers the evils recognized above but has no single-subject rule and urge
19 its members to consider adopting legislation that prohibits multiple-subject bills and the
20 addition of spending directives in nonbudget bills.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 recognize the importance of transparency in the legislative process at both the state and
23 federal levels and urge the United States Congress to adopt a single-subject rule for
24 legislation similar to Georgia's.

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 each member of the Georgia
27 Congressional Delegation.