

Senate Resolution 1

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th, Brown of the 26th, Carter of the 42nd, Sims of the 12th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging efforts to promote an increase in public awareness of the dangers of celebratory
2 gunfire; urging state and local governments and law enforcement agencies to better educate
3 Georgians regarding the serious threat created by firing a weapon into the air during a
4 celebration; and committing to studying and adopting tougher criminal sanctions for those
5 who perform celebratory gunfire resulting in injury or death to another person; and for other
6 purposes.

7 WHEREAS, on a cold New Year's morning shortly after midnight, a young four year old
8 boy, full of great promise and innocence, sat obediently before God at his church; and

9 WHEREAS, as this peaceful young boy worshiped, the air outside was split by the startling
10 sound of a weapon fired in celebration of the coming new year; and

11 WHEREAS, the bullet from that celebratory gunfire unintentionally and tragically pierced
12 the church's sanctuary killing that beautiful, loving little boy named Marquel Peters; and

13 WHEREAS, each year in this country there are hundreds of thousands of calls to police
14 emergency numbers complaining of celebratory gunfire; and

15 WHEREAS, during 2009 and 2010, one metro Atlanta county reported over 5,000 calls of
16 people discharging firearms on July 4 and December 31; and

17 WHEREAS, current laws do not sufficiently address or deter this tremendous threat to public
18 safety, resulting in numerous incidents of injury, damage to property, and loss of innocent
19 life; and

20 WHEREAS, now is the time for Georgia's leaders to come together and to work together to
21 help prevent the senseless loss like the loss of young Marquel Peters.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges both
23 governmental and private entities to promote an increased public awareness of the dangers
24 of celebratory gunfire and further urges state and local governments and law enforcement
25 agencies to better educate Georgians regarding the serious threat created by firing a weapon
26 into the air during a celebration.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in honor of Marquel Peters, this body is committed to
28 studying and adopting tougher criminal sanctions for those who commit celebratory gunfire
29 which results in injury or death to another person.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the DeKalb County Board of
32 Commissioners and the mother of Marquel Peters.