

## Senate Resolution 678

By: Senators Grant of the 25th, Hooks of the 14th, Harbison of the 15th, Jackson of the 2nd, Ginn of the 47th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the office of sheriff and recognizing January 25, 2012, as Sheriff's Day at the  
2 capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the office of sheriff is considered to be the oldest of all governmental entities,  
4 dating back to 600 B.C. as recorded in the Book of Daniel; and

5 WHEREAS, the office of sheriff in America is derived from English Common Law where  
6 the Reeves of ancient England were the first democratically elected officials in the history  
7 of Western Civilization; and

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of our nation's Constitution, wrote in  
9 *The Value of Constitutions*, "the office of sheriff is the most important of all the executive  
10 offices of the county"; and

11 WHEREAS, in Georgia, it is established in the state Constitution and ratified by our citizens  
12 and, as such, operates state wide with certain limited authority to perform the mandates and  
13 requirements of the office; and

14 WHEREAS, historically, since the creation of the office of Governor and the General  
15 Assembly in Georgia, governors and legislatures have placed tremendous confidence and  
16 trust in the office of sheriff as evidenced by more than 600 references within the Official  
17 Code of Georgia Annotated requiring sheriffs to perform services and engage in activities  
18 critical to safety, security, and benefit to Georgia's citizens and state government; and

19 WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the office of sheriff are many and varied, and  
20 in addition to sheriffs being the chief law enforcement officers of this state's counties and the  
21 keepers of its jails, they are further tasked with a host of other duties, including providing  
22 security to the courts, executing all of the writs and orders of the courts, registering and

23 tracking sex offenders, transporting inmates and individuals involuntarily committed for  
24 mental health evaluations, and a host of other mandated activities; and

25 WHEREAS, the office of sheriff is an office of the citizens of the county that is funded solely  
26 by local land owning taxpayers and operates independently of county government.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 commend the care, fortitude, and selfless dedication exhibited by the office of sheriff in  
29 carrying out the difficult duties of its vocation and recognize January 25, 2012, as Sheriff's  
30 Day at the capitol.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and press.