

Senate Resolution 728

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Jones of the 10th, James of the 35th, Tate of the 38th and Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress to impose a national moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty in
2 the United States; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the imposition of the death sentence has become increasingly problematic as
4 more instances of persons convicted of serious crimes being found innocent by new
5 evidence, often years or decades after the sentence was imposed, are reported, and it is
6 impossible to believe that such errors are limited to noncapital offenses; and

7 WHEREAS, as a largely pro-life state, Georgia recognizes the sanctity of human life up to
8 the time of a natural death; and

9 WHEREAS, even those who might relish the death of a human being convicted of a serious
10 crime must cringe at the possibility of the state executing an innocent person; and

11 WHEREAS, given the natural and healthy distrust many people have for their governmental
12 institutions, it stretches the imagination that anyone would attribute infallibility to the legal
13 system which, after all, is a very human institution; and

14 WHEREAS, participation in the executions of persons imposes a heavy emotional burden
15 on those public employees who are required by the duties of their positions to assist in the
16 procedure, as well as persons more remote from the act, including judicial officers and jurors;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the long and inevitable delays in such cases denies the families of crime victims
19 of the closure a swift sentence of life without hope of parole would bring; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to the moral issue, the hard economic fact is that the states and their
21 political subdivisions can no longer bear the heavy financial burden inextricably tied to the
22 imposition of capital punishment; and

23 WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons, the General Assembly deems it a moral and fiscal
24 imperative to repeal capital punishment in this state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 urge Congress to impose a national moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty in the
27 United States.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the presiding officer of each chamber of
30 the United States Congress and to the Georgia congressional delegation.