

Senate Bill 398

By: Senators James of the 35th, Davenport of the 44th, Seay of the 34th, Fort of the 39th and Orrock of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Department of Economic Development, so as to create the Africa Partnership Division of the  
3 department; to provide a short title; to provide for personnel, operation, and powers and  
4 duties of the division; to authorize the operation of projects; to provide for the general  
5 purpose of the division in promoting partnership between Africa and the State of Georgia and  
6 to authorize specific activities to promote economic development, cultural exchange, and  
7 other beneficial activities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department  
12 of Economic Development, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

13 style="text-align:center">"ARTICLE 8

14 50-7-90.

15 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Africa Partnership Project  
16 Act.'

17 50-7-91.

18 As used in this article the term:

19 (1) 'Director' means the director of the Africa Partnership Division of the Department of  
20 Economic Development.

21 (2) 'Division' means the Africa Partnership Division of the Department of Economic  
22 Development.

23 (3) 'Project' means one or more facilities suitable for use for one or more of the purposes  
 24 stated in Code Section 50-7-94, regardless of whether such facilities are contiguous,  
 25 including, by way of illustration and not limitation, the following facilities: exhibit halls;  
 26 auditoriums; theaters; restaurants and other facilities for the purveying of foods, beverages,  
 27 publications, souvenirs, novelties, and goods and services of all kinds, whether operated  
 28 or purveyed directly or indirectly through concessionaires, licensees or lessees, or  
 29 otherwise; parking facilities and parking areas in connection therewith; meeting room  
 30 facilities, including meeting rooms providing for simultaneous translation capabilities for  
 31 several languages; related lands, buildings, structures, fixtures, equipment, and personalty  
 32 appurtenant or convenient to the foregoing; and extension, addition, and improvement of  
 33 such facilities.

34 50-7-92.

35 (a) There is established within the Department of Economic Development the Africa  
 36 Partnership Division.

37 (b) There shall be a director of the division who shall be appointed by and serve at the  
 38 pleasure of the commissioner of economic development with the approval of the Board of  
 39 Economic Development. The division shall have such other personnel as may be  
 40 designated by the commissioner.

41 50-7-93.

42 Subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Board of Economic  
 43 Development, the division may establish and operate one or more projects appropriate to  
 44 the purposes of the division as established under Code Section 50-7-94.

45 50-7-94.

46 The purposes of the division shall be to:

47 (1) Promote the State of Georgia and the Atlanta area as the gateway for business with  
 48 Africa;

49 (2) Work in collaboration with the Africa Heritage Foundation in order to successfully  
 50 execute the underlying objectives endorsed by the Africa Heritage Foundation and the  
 51 Africa Union Commission;

52 (3) Promote, encourage, and facilitate the location of African consulates general in  
 53 Georgia and the Atlanta area;

54 (4) Develop a partnership with historically black colleges to promote and create  
 55 international studies programs, study abroad programs, and student exchange programs;

- 56 (5) Promote the port of Savannah as the main center for cargo shipment of goods  
57 between Africa and the United States;
- 58 (6) Promote Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport as the main center for air passenger  
59 and cargo services between Africa and the United States;
- 60 (7) Encourage the Africa Village that represents 54 nations of Africa to locate in  
61 Georgia;
- 62 (8) Encourage the Africa Heritage Diaspora Radio and TV headquarters to locate in  
63 Georgia;
- 64 (9) Encourage and support the establishment of the Africa Heritage Foundation Institute  
65 of Oceanography and Marine Research in collaboration with the Georgia Ports Authority  
66 and Savannah State University;
- 67 (10) Encourage and support the establishment of the Africa Heritage Foundation's  
68 Institute of Ethics Leadership to provide human resources and related training in  
69 cooperation with the University System of Georgia for all of the 55 African nations;
- 70 (11) Encourage and support the establishment of the Africa Heritage Foundation's  
71 headquarters, titled the 'Africa House,' in the vicinity of the Centennial Olympic Park to  
72 house diaspora tourism and cultural programs for all of the 55 African nations as well as  
73 to serve as the headquarters of the foundation's global operations and its USAFRICA  
74 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
- 75 (12) Encourage and support the establishment of the Africa Heritage Foundation's  
76 headquarters for the purpose of making the city of Atlanta and the State of Georgia the  
77 international headquarters of the foundation chapters in all the 55 nations of Africa and  
78 the Diaspora, including Brazil, Australia, and the Caribbean as well as the proposed  
79 chapters of the Foundation in all the 50 states in the United States;
- 80 (13) Encourage and support the establishment of the Africa Heritage Foundation Institute  
81 of African Nations Science and Technology to be located in the State of Georgia and  
82 work in collaboration and partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology;
- 83 (14) Encourage and support the launching of a monthly 'Africa Open for Business' forum  
84 and related networking, job creation, and investment opportunities;
- 85 (15) Establish or promote the establishment of an African world museum and center in  
86 the Atlanta area;
- 87 (16) Establish or promote the establishment of an African heritage world cultural and  
88 tourism festival to take place annually in Georgia to promote cultural diversity and  
89 tourism;
- 90 (17) Establish or promote the establishment of one or more African heritage research  
91 institutes in Georgia;

- 92 (18) Establish or promote the establishment of one or more African heritage foundations,  
93 chambers of commerce, economic conferences, and expositions in Georgia;  
94 (19) Establish or promote the establishment of one or more African food culture festivals  
95 in Georgia;  
96 (20) Generally promote economic development for Africa and the State of Georgia;  
97 (21) Promote the education and training of doctors and other health care professionals  
98 to provide modern health care and facilities in Africa and Georgia; and  
99 (22) Train and educate legislators about the policy making process in Africa and  
100 America."

101 **SECTION 2.**

102 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.