

Senate Resolution 969

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Chance of the 16th, Gooch of the 51st, Unterman of the 45th, James of the 35th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 21, 2012, as Turkish American Day at the capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 8,000 Turkish Americans residing in the State of Georgia
4 and 500 Turkish American businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, the Turkish American community makes significant contributions to the
6 cultural diversity, vitality, and economic well-being of the State of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia's trade with Turkey has increased by more than 30 percent over the last
8 year through the efforts of the Turkish American community, the Turkish American
9 Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast United States, and the Istanbul Center; and

10 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center is a nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Atlanta,
11 Georgia, and has a branch location in Alpharetta, Georgia, to provide assistance to the State
12 of Georgia and other areas of the United States by promoting better understanding and close
13 relations among various and diverse communities; and

14 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has become the premier representative organization of
15 Turkish culture by disseminating knowledge of the language, history, culture, education, and
16 social life of Turkey in Georgia and other states in the Southeast; and

17 WHEREAS, in facing the challenges of today's world, the Istanbul Center encourages
18 dialogue between the Turkish American community and the world through educational,
19 cultural, and humanitarian works; and

20 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center promotes programs, such as festivals, cooking classes, art
21 and handcraft exhibits, and music and dance performances, that help educate and inform the
22 citizens of Georgia about Turkish culture; and

23 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center has facilitated greater cultural understanding between
24 Turkish Americans and the people of Georgia by providing opportunities to connect with
25 community leaders, many of whom are of different cultures and faith backgrounds, as
26 evidenced by the center's cultural and educational programming; and

27 WHEREAS, Turkish Americans are devoted to improving the lives of others, assisting the
28 Istanbul Center with relief programs for victims of natural and other disasters; organizing
29 donations and food drive programs; and encouraging others in the Turkish American
30 community to volunteer at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, refugee service organizations,
31 and several area homeless shelters; and

32 WHEREAS, the Istanbul Center reciprocally promotes Georgia and the Southeast United
33 States in Turkey through television programming, interviews, advertisements, and various
34 business, cultural, and educational trips to Turkey.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 commend the Turkish American community of Georgia and the Istanbul Center for their
37 contributions to diversity, economic well-being, culture, and the quality of life in the State
38 of Georgia and recognize February 21, 2012, as Turkish American Day at the capitol.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Turkish American community and
41 the Istanbul Center.