

Senate Resolution 1042

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Fort of the 39th, James of the 35th, Tate of the 38th,  
Jones of the 10th and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March as African American Business Month at the capitol; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2001, the African American churches, businesses, and community  
4 organizations of Atlanta joined to build the OvergroundRR!! Movement; and

5 WHEREAS, as shown by its name, the ORR is a continuation of the Underground Railroad  
6 freedom movement, and is aimed at economic freedom instead of physical freedom; and

7 WHEREAS, the ORR Movement now consists of more than 84 churches, 140 businesses,  
8 and 40 community organizations, and is growing daily; and

9 WHEREAS, as of 2008, according to the Selig Center at the University of Georgia, African  
10 Americans spent approximately \$910 billion, but the gross revenue of African American  
11 businesses was only approximately 15 percent of that amount, which is extraordinarily low  
12 in comparison to all other communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the small percentage of the economy controlled by the African American  
14 community is a direct result of both the chained and Jim Crow phases of the enslavement of  
15 African Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, ministers of African American churches and mosques have recognized the need  
17 for African Americans to join together in support of African American owned businesses;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in his very last speech entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop" delivered in  
20 Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968, the night before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther  
21 King, Jr., expressly and specifically called on African Americans to unite in support of their  
22 own businesses; and

23 WHEREAS, African American churches of Atlanta through the ORR have declared March  
24 to be African American Business Month; and

25 WHEREAS, March was chosen because it follows Black History Month and because March  
26 10 marks the birthday of Harriet Tubman, the lead conductor of the Underground Railroad.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 commend the work of African-American churches, businesses, and community organizations  
29 in building the ORR and recognize March as African American Business Month at the  
30 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 ORR.