

Senate Resolution 1081

By: Senator Hill of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April, 2012, as Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month at the
2 capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the goal of Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month is to educate the public
4 about the history of previous and contemporary genocides; how to advocate against future
5 genocides; to focus attention on the specter of genocide so that policies, strategies, and
6 programs geared towards combating the evils of genocide can be developed; and to
7 commemorate the victims of genocide; and

8 WHEREAS, during World War II, a Polish lawyer of Jewish decent, Raphael Lemkin,
9 coined the term "genocide" to describe the coordinated plan of actions aimed at the
10 destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups with the aim of annihilating
11 a group itself by disintegrating a group's political and social institutions, culture, language,
12 national feelings, religion, and economic existence and destroying the personal security,
13 liberty, health, and dignity, as well as the lives, of individuals belonging to the group; and

14 WHEREAS, throughout history, numerous genocides originated or stemmed from events that
15 occurred in April, and as a result, many institutions around the world have designated April
16 to be a month of genocide prevention and awareness; and

17 WHEREAS, in April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree preparing the way for the "Final
18 Solution" defining non-Aryans as "anyone descended from non-Aryan, especially Jewish,
19 parents or grandparents"; and

20 WHEREAS, in April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh, the capital of
21 Cambodia, and initiated wide-scale massacres that turned cities into killing fields; these
22 massacres resulted in the deaths of two million people, and in April of 1992, the siege of
23 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital city, ultimately led to the deaths of more than
24 2,000 Bosnian Serbs; and

25 WHEREAS, in April of 1994, the Rwandan president's airplane was shot down, which led
26 to the slaying of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners, and over the next three months,
27 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered; and

28 WHEREAS, in April of 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, which led to
29 hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions; and

30 WHEREAS, the Genocide Prevention Task Force released its report on December of 2008
31 to spotlight genocide prevention as a national priority; and

32 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a state agency whose mission is
33 to use the lessons of the Holocaust to educate the citizens of Georgia on the consequences
34 of unchecked hate and the need for social justice, and to encourage strong moral character
35 and citizenship; and

36 WHEREAS, the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide operates as a proactive group with
37 a mission to develop a permanent antigenocide constituency in Georgia, and it depends on
38 citizen support to engage elected officials at the state and national levels through advocacy
39 and action and by creating awareness within the community; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the contributions of the Georgia
41 Coalition to Prevent Genocide.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize the month of April, 2012, as Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month at the
44 capitol and commend the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide for its dedicated efforts in
45 preventing genocide.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Coalition to Prevent
48 Genocide.