

Senate Resolution 1215

By: Senators Sims of the 12th, Crosby of the 13th, Bulloch of the 11th, Golden of the 8th and Hooks of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Joel Wernick; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, for more than 20 years Mr. Joel Wernick has served as president and CEO of
3 Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc., which has thrived under his stewardship with the number
4 of physicians more than doubling and the facility growing by several million square feet with
5 state-of-the-art technologies available to patients; and

6 WHEREAS, Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc., is the region's largest employer and is
7 composed of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Phoebe North, Phoebe Worth Medical
8 Center, Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center in Cuthbert, Phoebe Sumter Medical
9 Center and is entering into an affiliation with Dorminy Medical Center in Fitzgerald; and

10 WHEREAS, Phoebe has an employed physician component, Phoebe Physician Group,
11 employing more than 190 doctors and oversees the Southwest Georgia Family Medicine
12 Residency program and serves as the site for the Medical College of Georgia's first satellite
13 clinical campus; and

14 WHEREAS, Phoebe helped rebuild, expand, and open the hospital in Americus, Georgia, in
15 December of 2011, after it was destroyed by a tornado, and Phoebe Sumter Medical Center
16 is a diversified health care system with many diagnostics and therapeutic services and is the
17 site of the construction of a new state-of-the-art hospital and medical office complex; and

18 WHEREAS, Phoebe has received many national recognitions through Mr. Wernick's
19 excellent guidance, including the prestigious American Hospital Association Foster G.
20 McGaw prize in 2004, four Voluntary Hospitals of America (VHA) Leadership Awards, and
21 the American Hospital Association's Nova Award; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Wernick has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the
23 University of Arkansas and a master's degree in hospital administration from Xavier
24 University; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Wernick has achieved many professional distinctions, including a Fellow
26 of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Directors of VHA, a board member
27 of VHA-Georgia and the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals, chairman of the
28 Medical Resource Network, and chair of the Southwest Georgia Alliance for Progress; and

29 WHEREAS, he has greatly contributed to the lives of those in his community and across the
30 State of Georgia through his leadership with Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc., and has
31 been recognized by *Georgia Trend Magazine* as one of the state's top 25 leaders; and

32 WHEREAS, he serves in numerous local community activities, including Albany Rotary
33 Club where he is a Paul Harris Fellow and an active member of Porterfield United Methodist
34 Church; and

35 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding contributions of this
36 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 commend Mr. Joel Wernick for his substantial and significant leadership, outstanding
39 dedication and commitment given to Phoebe Putney Health System, Inc. over his years of
40 service, and congratulate him on his many achievements.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Joel Wernick.