

## Senate Resolution 59

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Stone of the 23rd, Butler of the 55th, Miller of the 49th, Davis of the 22nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to issue a Certificate of Restoration of Voting  
2 Rights upon the completion of a criminal sentence and all requirements of parole and  
3 probation; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, each year thousands of Georgians who have been sentenced to punishment for  
5 felony crimes fulfill the terms of their punishment and attempt to start life anew, only to  
6 discover that, in spite of having paid their debt to society for their offenses, they are still  
7 treated as less than full citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, many former offenders find many impediments to their efforts to reintegrate  
9 into society and ultimately return to the only life available to them, a life outside of  
10 mainstream society; and

11 WHEREAS, a procedure to confirm the automatic restoration of voting rights will greatly  
12 simplify the voter registration process in this state and will result in greater efficiency and  
13 a reduction in cost; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia, whose first founders were themselves brought out of the prisons of  
15 England to start life afresh, should be a place where former offenders who have paid their  
16 debt to society can face freedom with a fighting chance to start a new life.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
18 urge the members of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to search their consciences and  
19 assist in the re-acclimation into the greater society by these citizens by automatically issuing  
20 a Certificate of Restoration of Voting Rights to former offenders upon the successful  
21 completion of their sentences and all requirements of parole and probation.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the State Board of  
24 Pardons and Paroles.