

Senate Resolution 448

By: Senator Wilkinson of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 12, 2013, as Georgia Downtown Renaissance Day; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is made up of many beautiful cities, from its mountain
4 peaks to its sandy coastlines, each containing a downtown or main street area; these
5 downtowns have contributed to the growth in our state for nearly 250 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's downtowns are the heart and soul of our communities, creating places
7 of historical significance for generations and laying the foundation for small businesses of
8 our state; they are the natural incubators of entrepreneurship, business expansion, retention
9 of young professionals, historic preservation, arts, and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Downtown Association (GDA) was established to promote the
11 revitalization, reinvestment, and economic development of the many central business districts
12 of our state, and GDA works with downtown development authorities, Main Street and
13 Better Hometown programs, local elected officials, and volunteers to empower economic
14 growth and vitality for our state through public and private investment; since 1980, total
15 public and private investment of GDA programs amounts to \$3 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia downtown programs have created 55,868 jobs in the 32 years of the
17 state's Main Street programming, including 14,489 jobs in the last five years and have seen
18 the opening of 523 new businesses, the creation of 2,669 net new jobs, and the rehabilitation
19 of 385 buildings for a value of \$126 million in private investment; and

20 WHEREAS, the dedicated work of GDA in conjunction with the Georgia Department of
21 Community Affairs, Georgia Municipal Association, and Georgia Cities Foundation
22 continues to support the education and outreach of such local programs throughout our state,
23 which fosters an atmosphere of success and local pride.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 commend the outstanding accomplishments of the Georgia Downtown Association and
26 recognize March 12, 2013, as Georgia Downtown Renaissance Day.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Downtown Association.