

Senate Resolution 695

By: Senator Carter of the 42nd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, March 16, 2013, marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark United States  
3 Supreme Court case *Gideon V. Wainwright*; and

4 WHEREAS, Clarence Earl Gideon was arrested in Florida and charged with breaking and  
5 entering, and although he requested court appointed counsel at trial, his request was denied;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, he represented himself at trial and was convicted and sentenced to five years  
8 in prison; and while in prison, Gideon handwrote a petition to the United States Supreme  
9 Court, arguing that the denial of counsel violated his rights under the Sixth and Fourteenth  
10 Amendments; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court unanimously held that state courts are required  
12 under the Fourteenth Amendment to provide counsel in criminal cases for defendants who  
13 cannot afford to hire their own attorneys; and

14 WHEREAS, this case is responsible for the creation of state public defender offices  
15 nation-wide, including the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, and it is abundantly  
16 fitting and proper that the 50th anniversary of this historic decision be appropriately  
17 recognized.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
19 recognize the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright* and celebrate the hard work of the  
20 Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, other public defenders, and the United States  
21 Constitution they defend.

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 the Georgia Public Defender Standards  
24 Council.