

Senate Resolution 941

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Hill of the 6th, Mullis of the 53rd and Miller of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress to grow the United States economy by increasing the number of visas
2 designed to permit Korean citizens possessing skills in a specialty occupation to work in the
3 United States; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the entry into force of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement on March 15,
5 2012, means countless new opportunities for U.S. exporters to sell more U.S. goods, services,
6 and agricultural products to Korean customers and to support more well-paying jobs in the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the
9 agreement is the United States' most commercially significant free trade agreement in almost
10 two decades, and the U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the reduction of
11 Korean tariffs and tariff-rate quotas on goods alone will add \$10 billion to \$12 billion to
12 annual U.S. Gross Domestic Product and around \$10 billion to annual merchandise exports
13 to Korea; and

14 WHEREAS, while an unlimited number of highly skilled U.S. professionals are now
15 permitted to work in Korea, Korean professionals may only enter the United States under
16 general visa categories, which greatly restricts the number of persons admitted and
17 discourages Korean investment in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, legislation providing temporary entry for an increased number of Korean
19 professionals to work in the United States would permit this country to receive the full
20 benefits of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement; and

21 WHEREAS, Korea is the United States' seventh largest trading partner, with \$100 billion in
22 annual bilateral trade; Korean businesses have heavily invested in the United States and the
23 State of Georgia, operating 51 facilities in this state and creating 50,000 jobs for Georgians
24 of all ethnic origins; and

25 WHEREAS, increasing the number of visas will further encourage Korean investment in the
26 United States and the State of Georgia.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 GEORGIA that the members of this body urge Congress to enact legislation creating a new
29 class of visa designed to permit Korean citizens possessing skills in a specialty occupation
30 to work in the United States.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Congressional Delegation.