

House Resolution 281

By: Representatives Williamson of the 115th, Hitchens of the 161st, Dunahoo of the 30th,
Abrams of the 89th, Fleming of the 121st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the contributions of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkic American Federation
2 of Southeast and encouraging the creation of a Georgian-Turkish Friendship Task Force; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America are long-standing
5 allies, both dearly cherishing the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, in its alliances with the United States, the Republic of Turkey has demonstrated
8 its commitment to world peace and liberty as well as its secular and religious tolerance of
9 others; and

10 WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has the world's 15th largest economy and Europe's sixth
11 largest economy, is a valued trading partner with the State of Georgia, and is to be
12 commended for its contributions to the global economy; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and the Republic of Turkey have enjoyed a strong, vibrant,
14 and mutually beneficial economic relationship with the prospect of further growth; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the custom of the State of Georgia to welcome all who come to the state,
16 especially those who come in the interest of friendship and commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Georgia to further cultivate the good
18 relationship between Georgia and the Republic of Turkey and other Turkish nations; and

19 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Georgia Legislature to recognize the contributions of our
20 nation's allies and the value of maintaining beneficial relationships with allies of the State
21 of Georgia, such as the contributions made by the Republic of Turkey and the value of the
22 positive relationship with this ally; and

23 WHEREAS, the Turkic American Federation of Southeast (TAFS) is an independent
24 nonprofit organization that facilitates the mutually beneficial economic relationship between
25 Georgia and Turkey; and

26 WHEREAS, TAFS's mission is promoting cultural, educational, academic, business, social
27 and arts relations, and organizing events and activities to bring together the American,
28 Turkish, Turkic, and Eurasian communities within the United States, and TAFS represents
29 12 member organizations in five states: Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, and
30 Alabama; and

31 WHEREAS, TAFS brings people together by hosting public programs and private events
32 featuring leaders and experts with diverse views on a wide range of global and regional
33 topics through task forces, executive forums, luncheons, conferences, studies, and leadership
34 dialogue; and

35 WHEREAS, a Georgian-Turkish Friendship Task Force can further long-standing
36 Georgia-Republic of Turkey relations, build upon time-honored friendships, and promote
37 cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic relations between Georgia and
38 Turkey; and

39 WHEREAS, a Georgian-Turkish Task Force, with TAFS serving as the initial network
40 coordinator, will provide House and Senate members with the opportunity to strengthen
41 Georgia-Republic of Turkey relations and address issues that concern Turkish Americans in
42 Georgia, while coordinating hospitality and educational events and exchanges with TAFS.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body recognize the contributions of the Republic of Turkey and the
45 Turkic American Federation of Southeast for its efforts to promote intercultural
46 understanding and goodwill, and extend best wishes for a successful and memorable
47 Turkish-Georgian Friendship Dinner on February 25, 2015, in Atlanta, Georgia.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body also encourage the creation
49 of a Georgian-Turkish Friendship Task Force by members of the Georgia Legislature to
50 further long-standing Georgia-Republic of Turkey relations, build upon time-honored
51 friendships, and promote cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic relations
52 between Georgia and Turkey.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
54 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
55 headquarters of the Turkic American Federation of Southeast.