

Senate Resolution 686

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the legacy of Hosea Williams, public servant and civil rights activist; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams, born in Attapulgus, Georgia, earned his bachelor's degree in
4 chemistry from Morris Brown College and his master's degree from Atlanta University; and

5 WHEREAS, he worked as a research chemist for the United States Department of
6 Agriculture, making him the first African-American research chemist hired by the federal
7 government in the Deep South; and

8 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams was ordained a minister and joined the Southern Christian
9 Leadership Conference in 1964, where he was one of the most trusted officers and chief
10 lieutenants of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

11 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams played an instrumental role in the voter registration initiatives
12 during the 1964 Freedom Summer and served as the chief architect of the Montgomery to
13 Selma March in 1965, which was also known as Bloody Sunday; and

14 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the Savannah Movement and was with Dr. King when
15 he was tragically assassinated in 1968; and

16 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams honorably served on the Georgia General Assembly, the
17 Atlanta City Council, and the DeKalb County Commission; and

18 WHEREAS, he was responsible for leading Georgia's most sizable civil rights march in
19 1987, during which approximately 20,000 protestors boldly withstood racial slurs and
20 physical violence from white supremacist counter-demonstrators in the all-white Forsyth
21 County; and

22 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams ran for mayor in 1989 on a platform that championed issues
23 such as homelessness, job discrimination, and police brutality; and

24 WHEREAS, he led a march to the Georgia state capitol in 1996 to protest the Confederate
25 symbol depicted on Georgia's state flag; and

26 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams is the founding president of Hosea Feed the Hungry and
27 Homeless, one of the largest social services organizations for the poor and hungry on
28 holidays in North America; and

29 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams was inspired by his personal experience with Dr. Martin Luther
30 King, Jr., and his vow to continue Dr. King's work for the poor, and it is abundantly fitting
31 and proper that the legacy of this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by this
32 body.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 honor the legacy of Hosea Williams, a dedicated public servant and civil rights activist
35 whose work greatly benefitted the State of Georgia and the United States.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
38 Hosea Williams.