

Senate Resolution 1180

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Mullis of the 53rd, Williams of the 19th, Cowser of the 46th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Aquarium and recognizing the facility's ten-year anniversary; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium is a sensational economic driver for the City of Atlanta
4 and the State of Georgia, generating some \$2.3 billion in additional personal resources and
5 increasing the state's gross domestic product by \$1.9 billion; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium is an outsized source of state and local revenue,
7 generating in excess of \$8 million in state and local sales and income taxes; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium has become a world-class tourist destination as the
9 anchor of Atlanta's largest tourism district, annually attracting 2.2 million visitors, 60 percent
10 of whom are out-of-state travelers, and contributing to a 38 percent room revenue growth in
11 the surrounding hotel district since 2005; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium has been a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown
13 Atlanta, stimulating more than \$1.7 billion in new investment around Centennial Olympic
14 Park and supporting 11,165 construction jobs since groundbreaking; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium is an unparalleled scholastic resource for Georgia
16 children, attracting more than one million student visitors in the facility's first decade; and

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium is a major local employer, supporting 2,046 permanent
18 jobs across Georgia in 2015 and a projected 2016 direct payroll of more than \$30 million;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has been a partner in growth with the Aquarium
21 for the last ten years; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium will enter its second decade with a major expansion to
23 accommodate a new sea lion exhibit, for which attendance is projected to grow; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Aquarium will continue in its next ten years to be a force for
25 economic, civic, and scholastic good for the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend the Georgia Aquarium, Chairman Emeritus of the Board Mr. Bernie Marcus, Chief
28 Executive Officer Mr. Michael A. Leven, and Chief Operating Officer Mr. Joseph Handy for
29 their vision, commitment, and citizenship, and recognize the facility's 10 year anniversary.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
32 Aquarium.