

Senate Resolution 197

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Unterman of the 45th, Dugan of the 30th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Black of the 8th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 28, 2017, as Prosecution-based Victim Advocacy Day in Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on February 28, 2017, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia will
4 sponsor Prosecution-based Victim Advocacy Day in Georgia at the Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, legislators are encouraged to join with prosecution-based victim advocates,
6 district attorneys, and solicitors-general from across the state to recognize the important role
7 of prosecution-based victim advocates and to increase awareness of their mission to provide
8 support to victims of all crimes; and

9 WHEREAS, with the enactment of the Georgia Crime Victims' Bill of Rights over 20 years
10 ago, individuals impacted by violent and property crimes are afforded specific rights to
11 enable them to take steps toward restoration, and through the prosecution-based victim
12 advocates, district attorney and solicitor-general offices statewide are the only service
13 agencies mandated to serve all crime victims; and

14 WHEREAS, prosecution-based victim advocates are present and available to guide these
15 individuals through what can be a confusing, complicated judicial process from the earliest
16 stages through post-adjudication, and victim advocacy personnel assist with obtaining
17 compensation through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and appropriate restitution
18 through the courts; and

19 WHEREAS, prosecution-based victim advocacy personnel make referrals to professional
20 and other community resources, provide notification of all judicial proceedings, and support
21 all crime victims; and

22 WHEREAS, each judicial circuit and county has unique needs, resources, and services, and
23 the advocates work to insure the victim's full participation in the judicial process; and

24 WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia's Victim Services Office
25 provides direct services, consultation, training, networking, and professional development
26 to advocate personnel, and they also present the needs and concerns of crime victims to the
27 community, elected officials, agencies, and public policy makers through education,
28 resources, collaboration, and advocacy; and

29 WHEREAS, the Victim Services Office is committed to unifying this state's victim advocate
30 personnel in voice, purpose, professionalism, and vision; providing training and orientation
31 for new advocates and volunteers; providing training to advocates, prosecutors, investigators,
32 community officials, and the public regarding crime victim issues; assisting with
33 collaboration between advocacy agencies; assisting with requested training of law
34 enforcement officers and agencies, including, but not limited to, training on domestic
35 violence, child abuse, elder abuse, criminal process, civil justice, compassion fatigue, and
36 sexual assault; providing up-to-date information through consultation, networking, personal,
37 ethical and professional development, and training to prosecution-based victim advocates;
38 and supporting prosecution-based advocates as they serve all crime victims in Georgia as
39 mandated by the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 recognize the importance of prosecution-based victim advocates, support their mission to
42 support victims of all crimes, and declare February 28, 2017, as Prosecution-based Victim
43 Advocacy Day in Georgia.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Prosecuting
46 Attorneys' Council of Georgia.