

Senate Resolution 398

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network, GMEN, has been committed to
3 economic justice and poverty alleviation since its founding in 1997 when informal
4 discussions around welfare to work issues, self-employment and access to capital availability
5 became the catalyst for GMEN's creation; and

6 WHEREAS, initial funding for micro enterprise development and capacity building for the
7 field came to GMEN through the Department of Family and Children Services to develop
8 pilot micro enterprise programs who provided services to TANF recipients; and

9 WHEREAS, for 20 years GMEN has provided Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) to
10 its member and partner organizations in the micro enterprise development (MDO) field by
11 presenting statewide training institutes and its Annual Conferences, developing MDO
12 Collaborative, providing individual technical assistance and on-site consultation, and
13 facilitating peer-to-peer learning and exchanges; and

14 WHEREAS, GMEN's members and affiliated organizations include more than 75 MDOs that
15 provide micro enterprise training and micro-lending to serve over 8,000 disadvantaged
16 entrepreneurs; and

17 WHEREAS, GMEN has always served the entire State of Georgia and over the last three
18 years has strengthened and expanded its outreach activities to rural and smaller urban
19 communities and a partnership with USDA and grant funding through the National Resource
20 Conservation Service has resulted in connections with 30 new MDOs; and

21 WHEREAS, micro enterprises located in both rural and urban Georgia have provided
22 training and support to Internet-enabled agribusiness, including micro farms, and assisted in
23 development and adoption of precision cultivation techniques statewide; and

24 WHEREAS, GMEN has facilitated and provided webinars, virtual technology trainings, to
25 MDOs across the country since 2009 in which participants are taught to maximize their use
26 of technology to serve their micro enterprise clients, and GMEN has provided a number of
27 in-person and online business development services for the micro enterprise development
28 community, including organizational IT capacity building through its online training portal
29 Micro Enterprise Development University, MDOU and its Micro Biz Finder App; and

30 WHEREAS, GMEN, with funding from the Small Business Administration, launched The
31 Reentry from Incarceration through Entrepreneurship Services, RITES Project, across all of
32 Georgia, with special emphasis placed on holding in-person Training of Trainers Institutes
33 in each of the four regions of the state; and

34 WHEREAS, all of GMEN's efforts and that of its MDO members are focused on helping
35 returning citizens, the incarcerated and low-to-moderate income people build assets through
36 business ownership to transform economic conditions in low wealth communities across the
37 State of Georgia; and

38 WHEREAS, GMEN is made up of a strong statewide network of 75 micro enterprise
39 development and partner organizations spanning all counties in the State of Georgia; and

40 WHEREAS, these organizations possess a strong track record of serving low wealth people
41 in both rural and urban areas.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 congratulate the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network for its many outstanding contributions
44 on behalf of the citizens of Georgia and extend best wishes for its continued growth,
45 development, and success.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Micro
48 Enterprise Network.