

Senate Resolution 557

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Shafer of the 48th and Thompson of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish
3 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in the year of 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election, Tsai
5 Ing-wen was elected as the 14th President of Taiwan, becoming the first female president in
6 the country's history, and along with her Vice President Chen Chien-jen, she hopes to
7 continue to build the country's already rich tradition of economic vitality, cultural growth,
8 and innovation; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation
10 of stability and growth; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than 20 agreements in the past
12 decade and United States businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies
13 in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan
14 as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and
- 15 WHEREAS, since 1984, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and
16 mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each
17 passing year; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, and the United States
19 is Taiwan's second largest trading partner; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a
21 significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination
22 for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

23 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an
24 even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a US-Taiwan Bilateral Investment
25 Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, in order to enhance the special sister-state bond
26 between Georgia and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business
27 exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

28 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history
29 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental
30 protection.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful
33 participation in the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation
34 Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other
35 international organizations, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued
36 cooperation and success.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Vincent
39 Jing-Yen Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.