

Senate Resolution 685

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Jones of the 10th, Anderson of the 43rd, James of the 35th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Renaming the bed of tidewater on the Georgia coast known as "Runaway Negro Creek" to
2 "Freedom Creek"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is a bed of tidewater on the Georgia coast at latitude 31.9766030 and
4 longitude -81.0462222 known as "Runaway Negro Creek" as recorded by the United States
5 Board of Geographic Names; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Board of Geographic Names is a federal body created in 1890
7 and recreated by the United States Congress in 1947, pursuant to Public Law 80-242, to
8 establish and maintain uniform usage of geographic names throughout the federal
9 government and serves the public as a central authority for the recording of geographic
10 names; and

11 WHEREAS, as reflected in Code Section 52-1-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 the General Assembly finds and declares that the State of Georgia became the owner of the
13 beds of all tidewaters within the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia as successor to the
14 Crown of England and by the common law; and

15 WHEREAS, as reflected in Code Section 52-1-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
16 the General Assembly finds and declares that the State of Georgia continues to hold title to
17 the beds of all tidewaters within the state; and

18 WHEREAS, pursuant to the State of Georgia's title to the beds of all tidewaters within this
19 state and pursuant to Code Section 52-1-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
20 Georgia law provides that "tidewaters" means the sea and all rivers and arms of the sea that
21 are affected by the tide, where the tide rises and falls, which are capable of use for fishing,
22 passage, navigation, commerce, or transportation, and which are located within the
23 jurisdiction of the State of Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, the tide of the Atlantic Ocean meets Wilmington River, and such tide of
25 Wilmington River meets Skidaway River, and such tide of Skidaway River meets such creek;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the tide of the Atlantic Ocean meets Little Ogeechee River, and such tide of
28 Little Ogeechee River meets Vernon River, and such tide of Vernon River meets Moon
29 River, and such tide of Moon River meets Skidaway River, and such tide of Skidaway River
30 meets such creek; and

31 WHEREAS, such creek, which runs along the edge of Skidaway Island State Park, is a bed
32 of tidewater located within the jurisdiction of the State of Georgia and to which the State of
33 Georgia holds title; and

34 WHEREAS, intentional or not, the current name of such creek serves to cast, edify, and
35 perpetuate a posture of criminality upon the men and women who pursued the inalienable
36 right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

37 WHEREAS, the Division of Archives and History of the University System of Georgia is the
38 Names Authority for this state, which the United States Board of Geographic Names relies
39 upon for advice for the recording of geographic names in this state; and

40 WHEREAS, the name of such creek should be changed to reflect this state's commitment to
41 freedom and the inalienable rights of the men and women who pursue it.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
43 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the entire length of the bed of tidewater on the Georgia
44 coast at latitude 31.9766030 and longitude -81.0462222, a portion of which runs along the
45 edge of Skidaway Island State Park, shall be renamed and known as "Freedom Creek."

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Archives and History of the University
47 System of Georgia, as this state's Names Authority to the United States Board of Geographic
48 Names, shall notify the United States Board of Geographic Names of this action and advise
49 the United States Board of Geographic Names accordingly.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
51 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Division of

- 52 Archives and History of the University System of Georgia and the United States Board of
- 53 Geographic Names.