

Senate Resolution 718

By: Senator Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the State of Georgia's reaffirmation of the bonds of friendship and cooperation
2 with the State of Israel on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary on April 19, 2018; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition
5 the British Mandate of Palestine and through that vote created the State of Israel; and

6 WHEREAS, the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent, modern State of
7 Israel was the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established 3,000
8 years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is the greatest friend
10 and ally of the United States in the Middle East; and

11 WHEREAS, since its establishment 70 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt a
12 nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, political,
13 cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of six wars, terrorism, international
14 ostracism, and economic boycotts; and

15 WHEREAS, Israel and the United States have a shared commitment to freedom, peace,
16 security, and civil rights for all of their citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of cultural, economic, and educational cooperation
18 between the citizens of Georgia and Israel; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to 44 Israeli companies; Georgia's Department of
20 Economic Development has a trade office in Israel; the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, and
21 Ra'anana, Israel, and Yokne'am, Israel, are official Sister Cities, as are the cities of Sandy
22 Springs, Georgia, and Western Galilee, Israel; Israel has an established international law

23 enforcement exchange program and Georgia imports more than \$474.8 million from Israel;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, with the anniversary observance taking place throughout the year, Israel will
26 celebrate its anniversary with events marking the birth and development of the state, the
27 struggle to find peace and security, and its hopes for the future; and

28 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Israel
29 that inspires the people of Georgia to stand with the people of Israel in solidarity and we
30 welcome all opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels, including
31 through cultural, acadernic, and business endeavors; and

32 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to serve as home to the Israeli Consulate General for the
33 Southeast.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize the historic significance of the seventieth anniversary of the reestablishment of the
36 sovereign and independent, modern State of Israel, commend the people of Israel for their
37 remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the
38 Middle East, reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between
39 the State of Georgia and Israel for seven decades, affirm Georgia's desire for sustained
40 collaboration on technological innovation in such sectors as security, alternative energy, and
41 natural resource management, express Georgia's appreciation to Ambassador Shorer for her
42 efforts to promote peace and grow business, cultural, and educational ties between the two
43 nations, continue Georgia's commitment to Israel and its people by maintaining or increasing
44 investment in State of Israel bonds, and extend warmest congratulations and best wishes to
45 the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

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 Ambassador
48 Shorer.