

Senate Resolution 1072

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Miller of the 49th, Walker III of the 20th, Martin of the 9th, Strickland of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Governor Nathan Deal; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Nathan Deal was born on August 25, 1942, in Millen, Georgia; and
- 3 WHEREAS, he married Sandra Dunagen in 1966 and is the proud father of four children,
4 Jason, Mary Emily, Carrie, and Katie; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1964 and his law degree in 1966 from
6 Mercer University and served as a judge advocate general in the United States Army from
7 1966 until 1968 at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he spent 23 years in the private practice of law and serving as a criminal
9 prosecutor, Hall County juvenile court judge, and a superior court judge on the Northeastern
10 Judicial Circuit before being elected to the Georgia Senate in 1980, where he served until
11 1993; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Georgia in
13 1992 where he served until 2010; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the people of the great State of Georgia elected him to serve as the 82nd
15 Governor of the State of Georgia in 2010; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he has led Georgia to become the No. 1 state in the nation for business for five
17 consecutive years, has helped to create more than 650,000 private sector jobs, and has
18 worked with the Georgia General Assembly on the Transportation Funding Act of 2015,
19 which included a number of significant infrastructure projects to alleviate traffic and improve
20 safety and will generate \$10 billion in new transportation funding over ten years; and

21 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Governor, Georgia has saved millions of taxpayer dollars
22 by maintaining a AAA bond rating, and the rainy day reserve fund of the state has grown to
23 more than \$2 billion; and

24 WHEREAS, at the beginning of his tenure as Governor, Georgia was in the midst of a
25 criminal justice crisis, with high incarceration costs and recidivism rates which he addressed
26 by working with the General Assembly to implement a series of bipartisan reforms that have
27 already paid dividends by saving taxpayers \$264 million and reducing the need for 5,000
28 prison beds; and

29 WHEREAS, his criminal justice reforms include expanding access to accountability courts
30 to give new beginnings to nonviolent offenders with addiction or mental health issues;
31 providing judges with greater discretion in sentencing juvenile offenders and expanding
32 community-based options across the state; removing barriers to employment, housing, and
33 education for rehabilitated offenders to give them a chance to rejoin the workforce and
34 support their families; and increasing access to educational opportunities in Georgia's prison
35 systems; and

36 WHEREAS, Governor Deal believes that education reform is the best criminal justice reform
37 and, as a result, he has dedicated more than 50 percent of state funds to education every year
38 he has been in office, devoting a higher percentage of the budget to K-12 funding than any
39 governor in the past 50 years; he has worked closely with the General Assembly to save the
40 HOPE Scholarship from bankruptcy to ensure its availability for future generations of college
41 students; he has expanded the HOPE Grant, a scholarship that pays 100 percent of tuition for
42 students to attend technical colleges to learn skills that are in high demand for Georgia's
43 workforce; he has established the REACH Georgia Scholarship, a public-private partnership
44 that provides scholarships to promising middle school students from low-income families;
45 he has created the Education Reform Commission to provide recommendations intended to
46 improve our educational system, increase access to early learning programs, recruit and
47 retain high-quality instructors and expand school options for Georgia's families; and he has
48 created the Teacher Advisory Committee, which comprises 90 educators throughout the
49 state, who will review recommendations from the 2015 Education Reform Commission and
50 provide feedback for implementation; and

51 WHEREAS, he has worked with the General Assembly in this session to provide Georgians
52 with an historic reduction in income taxes to relieve a portion of the tax burden which they
53 bear; and

54 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
55 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this
56 state have earned him the respect and admiration of the citizens of Georgia and his
57 colleagues and associates; and

58 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
59 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

60 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
61 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
63 recognize and commend the Honorable Nathan Deal, 82nd Governor of the State of Georgia,
64 for his outstanding life of service to the citizens of this state and for his significant
65 contributions to the lives of Georgians and his many accomplishments and achievements.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
67 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Governor Deal.