

Senate Resolution 239

By: Senators Karinshak of the 48th, Rahman of the 5th, Unterman of the 45th, Butler of the 55th and Henson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Nowruz as the Persian New Year on March 21st, 2019, an occasion with Iranian
2 origins but observed by diverse people all over the world; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Nowruz, meaning "New Day," is celebrated on March 21st as the Persian New
4 Year and marks the beginning of the Spring season; and

5 WHEREAS, in Persian mythology, King Jamshid is credited with the founding of Nowruz,
6 while others suggest that it was founded by Zoroaster himself, although there is no clear date
7 of its origin; and

8 WHEREAS, while Nowruz is celebrated and observed principally in Iran, it has spread to
9 other parts of the world, including parts of Central Asia, the Caucasus, northwestern China,
10 the Crimea, and by some groups in the Balkans. In Iran, Nowruz is an official holiday lasting
11 for thirteen days, during which most national functions, including schools, are closed and
12 festivities take place. The Canadian Parliament, by unanimous consent, passed a bill on
13 March 30th, 2009, to add Nowruz to the national calendar of Canada; and

14 WHEREAS, the most important activity in the celebration of Nowruz is setting the "haft-seen
15 table," which literally means a table of seven items that start with the letter "s." The table
16 often includes items such as sumac (crushed spice of berries), senjed (sweet, dry fruit of a
17 lotus tree), serkeh (vinegar), and seeb (apples); and

18 WHEREAS, Nowruz invites us to contemplate nature's power of renewal and rejuvenation,
19 to look more deeply, not just to the green world outside, but at our human nature as well; and

20 WHEREAS, for the people celebrating Nowruz, it is a time to appreciate their rich heritage
21 and to move forward with hope for a prosperous new year ahead filled with health, wealth,
22 love, joy, and success; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to thousands of Iranian-Americans, particularly in Cobb
24 County, Gwinnett County, DeKalb County, and Fulton County; and

25 WHEREAS, the United States is home to hundreds of thousands more Iranian-Americans,
26 many of whom contribute greatly in the fields of business, civics, health care, law, the arts,
27 and more; and

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Senate recognizes the rich cultural significance of Nowruz
29 and celebrates the occasion with Georgia's communities.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 recognize Nowruz, the Persian New Year, and acknowledge its importance to many of
32 Georgia's homes and communities.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
35 press.