

Senate Resolution 296

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Robertson of the 29th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Aerospace Industry for its significant beneficial
2 impact to the people and economy of the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's aerospace sector had a \$57.5B economic impact (2017 Data) and the
4 state is home to more than 800 aerospace companies employing 108,000 Georgians. These
5 aerospace employees earn an average annual wage of \$77,000, 47 percent higher than the
6 state's average wage; every aerospace job in Georgia supports an additional 1.5 jobs,
7 representing 8.5 percent of Georgia wages and salaries; and

8 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines is the world's second largest airline, with headquarters in
9 Atlanta, and 33,000 of its 88,000 workforce is located in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, Gulfstream Aerospace employs more than 12,000 highly skilled workers in
11 Savannah and Brunswick, manufacturing and maintaining Gulfstream aircraft; and Lockheed
12 Martin employs nearly 5,000 engineers and technicians at their Marietta plant, producing the
13 C-130 and F-35 Center Wing Assemblies and modifying and upgrading aircraft it designed
14 and built in Georgia, such as the C-5M, P-3, and F-22. Thrush Aircraft operates aircraft
15 manufacturing facilities in Albany, and Maule Air builds aircraft in Moultrie. These four
16 companies create Georgia-built aircraft that are in use around the globe; and

17 WHEREAS, Pratt & Whitney's Columbus facility employs nearly 2,000 workers and includes
18 the Columbus Engine Center, responsible for engine overhauls, and Columbus Forge, which
19 provides forged jet engine parts. Hundreds of companies throughout the state manufacture
20 key components for major aircraft programs throughout the world; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia's aerospace industry is a world leader in aerospace exports, currently
22 producing \$8.4 billion, which makes it Georgia's number one export since 2004; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to the world's busiest passenger airport, Hartsfield-Jackson
24 Atlanta International Airport, where aviation activities and transportation hubs contribute to
25 the employment of 63,000 people at the airport and 400,000 in the metro Atlanta region, and
26 to \$70 billion in state-wide total economic impact; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia aerospace is a leader in the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO),
28 of military and civil aircraft engines and equipment and is home to the largest commercial
29 MRO facilities in the United States (Delta TechOps) and to one of the world's largest military
30 MRO facilities (Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex); Georgia is home to multiple
31 military organizations with flight operations, including the United States Air Force, United
32 States Army, United States National Guard, and the United States Coast Guard; and

33 WHEREAS, emerging technologies are enabling new types of aircraft for urban and regional
34 transportation, and Georgia's aerospace industry and academic researchers seek to advance
35 the concepts and technologies necessary to safely and efficiently integrate unmanned aircraft
36 into the National Airspace System. These advancements are laying the foundation to enable
37 rapid transport of goods, medical supplies, and passengers within cities and to rural areas,
38 improving quality of life; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia's growing space sector includes locations of satellite-enabled global
40 communications companies IntelSat and ViaSat and the Georgia-based SpaceWorks
41 Enterprises family of companies that provide space and flight solutions for the next
42 generation. In Georgia's universities, Georgia Tech launched the R.A.N.G.E cubesat on a
43 Space X Falcon 9 Rocket in December, 2018, and has four additional active small satellite
44 projects; and the Small Satellite laboratory at the University of Georgia is designing and
45 building spacecraft to monitor the health of Georgia's coast, with plans to launch two
46 student-built small satellites into space by 2020; and

47 WHEREAS, Georgia offers world-class aerospace education programs and is a leader in
48 research and development through public and private universities, conducting over \$60
49 million in specialized aerospace research and over \$500 million in general engineering
50 research annually. In addition to the #2 Aerospace Engineering undergraduate and #4
51 graduate program at Georgia Tech, Middle Georgia State University offers bachelor's degrees
52 in flight and aviation maintenance and was selected as one of eight universities in the nation
53 to partner with Delta Airlines on the Propel Collegiate Pilot Career Path. Six Technical
54 College System of Georgia schools offer aviation programs around the state, offering
55 certificates, diplomas, and degrees to meet aviation industry needs.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
57 recognize the importance of the Georgia Aerospace Industry to the State of Georgia, support
58 efforts to maintain and strengthen the industry, and will help to foster its continued growth
59 within the State of Georgia for the benefit of all Georgians.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
61 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of Economic
62 Development Center of Innovation for Aerospace.