

House Resolution 1001

By: Representatives Bell of the 75th, Sanchez of the 42nd, Romman of the 97th, Holly of the 116th, McQueen of the 61st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the ethical investment of all state funds and public resources; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is steadfast in its commitment to advancing justice, equity,
4 and the protection of human rights for all people, both within our state and across the globe;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, public funds are not merely financial tools but a direct reflection of the public
7 values we are entrusted to uphold; therefore, they carry a moral obligation to ensure state
8 investments do not enable, support, or profit from violence or perpetuate violence, whether
9 through occupation, apartheid, or genocide abroad, or through the furthering of historical,
10 systemic, or individual racism here in the State of Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, residents across Georgia have expressed a clear and consistent desire for greater
12 investment in public health, calling for resources directed toward improving access to care,
13 addressing health disparities, and strengthening community well-being; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has taken meaningful steps in recent budget
15 cycles to improve the health, safety, and prosperity of Georgia families—investing in

16 hospitals and clinics, behavioral health services, and community-based supports,
17 demonstrating its commitment to the long-term strength and vitality of all Georgians; and

18 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is further entrusted with safeguarding the investment
19 policies of the state, ensuring they align with the social values and human rights standards
20 we hold ourselves to; and

21 WHEREAS, on January 12, 2024, the Georgia General Assembly affirmed its commitment
22 to peace by supporting calls for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza; and

23 WHEREAS, continuing to invest state resources in companies, whether domestic or abroad,
24 that profit directly from perpetuating violence runs counter to these commitments and
25 undermines Georgia's stated values; and

26 WHEREAS, this includes companies operating in or partnered with nations documented to
27 be involved in widespread and systemic human rights violations, including but not limited
28 to Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where state and corporate entities have been
29 identified for direct or indirect participation in conflict, violence, occupation, forced
30 displacement, political repression, and other human rights abuses; and

31 WHEREAS, it is proper to further recognize the ongoing humanitarian crisis in
32 Sudan—marked by mass displacement, ethnic cleansing, political repression, and widespread
33 violence—largely driven by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary organization
34 responsible for atrocities against civilians and whose operations have been financially and
35 materially supported by actors linked to the UAE, contributing to instability, civilian harm,
36 and regional insecurity; and

37 WHEREAS, investing in companies that directly profit from or enable such conflicts,
38 including those tied to the RSF's ongoing violence in Sudan, stands in direct opposition to
39 Georgia's moral responsibility to prevent human suffering and align public funds with public
40 values; and

41 WHEREAS, we must also recognize the grave humanitarian crisis in the Democratic
42 Republic of the Congo, where conflict minerals—including cobalt, gold, coltan, and
43 tungsten—play a major role in fueling violence, displacement, environmental devastation,
44 and forced labor, particularly affecting women and children; and

45 WHEREAS, Georgia residents depend heavily on smart phones, computers, electric vehicles,
46 and other technologies that rely on these minerals and therefore have a vested interest in
47 ensuring that supply chains are conflict-free, transparent, sustainable, and not tied to human
48 rights abuses; and

49 WHEREAS, investing in companies that extract, process, or profit from conflict minerals in
50 the Congo, without credible certification of conflict-free supply chains, stands in opposition
51 to Georgia's responsibility to prevent violence and align public funds with public values; and

52 WHEREAS, audits and public reporting on state investments—including, but not limited to,
53 pension funds, state funds, managed investments, capital reserves, contractual holdings,
54 treasury instruments, tax-advantaged accounts, and any other publicly managed financial
55 resources—have raised concerns that certain holdings may not fully align with ethical
56 investment standards, including guidelines established by the American Friends Service
57 Committee.

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
59 the members of this body urge the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System
60 of Georgia, the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, the State Treasurer, the State
61 Accounting Office, and all other state-managed investment entities, boards, divisions, and
62 authorities to ensure that all state-controlled funds—including retirement funds, investment
63 portfolios, bond holdings, procurement-related investments, endowments, reserve funds, and
64 all other public financial assets—are not invested in companies that are complicit in
65 perpetuating violence against people within our state or abroad, including but not limited to
66 corporate entities operating in or with Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE),
67 Sudan—particularly those linked to the RSF—and the Democratic Republic of the Congo,
68 according to the guidelines established by the American Friends Service Committee.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body express their support for
70 divestment from companies whose supply chains rely on conflict minerals tied to violence
71 as well as the implementation of transparent reporting and routine review of all state
72 investments and funds to ensure compliance with this standard and to uphold the moral,
73 ethical, and fiscal responsibility entrusted to this body by the people of Georgia.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
75 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
76 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia, the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, the
77 Office of the State Treasurer, the public, and the press.