

Senate Resolution 560

By: Senator Moore of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Reaffirming the 35th parallel as Georgia's northern border and any rights therein, and urging
2 Congress, the federal Department of the Interior, and all other relevant federal, state, and
3 local authorities to recognize and take all steps reasonably necessary to correct the boundary
4 line currently dividing Georgia from Tennessee and North Carolina; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the admission of Tennessee to the Union in 1796 by an act of Congress,
6 approved June 1, 1796, 1 Stat. 491, and North Carolina's cession of its western lands to the
7 United States in 1790 by an act of Congress, approved April 2, 1790, 1 Stat. 106, stipulated
8 the 35th parallel as the boundary between Georgia and what became Tennessee and North
9 Carolina; and

10 WHEREAS, in *Georgia v. South Carolina*, 259 U.S. 572 (1922), the United States Supreme
11 Court recognized that the 35th parallel served as the historical and legal boundary of
12 Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, the Official Code of Georgia Annotated acknowledges Georgia's boundary lines
14 in Code Section 50-2-1, which is consistent with state constitutions, federal statutes, and case
15 law that reference the 35th parallel as the northern boundary of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, the impacted area remains under the de facto control of Tennessee and North
17 Carolina, despite credible and longstanding legal grounds that recognize it as properly
18 belonging to the State of Georgia, as described in a resolution approved May 14, 2008 (2008
19 Ga. L., p. 1180) and a resolution introduced during the 2023 regular session of the General
20 Assembly (H.R. 508); and

21 WHEREAS, the federal Department of the Interior, through its oversight of federal land and
22 official state boundaries in conjunction with other federal agencies, possesses the
23 administrative authority to update or clarify official boundary maps.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 urge:

26 (1) All citizens of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and all state and federal
27 authorities to recognize the historical and reaffirmed legal basis of Georgia's claims;

28 (2) Congress, the federal Department of the Interior, and any other relevant federal
29 agencies to take all steps reasonably necessary to correct the official boundary maps in
30 order to redesignate the land situated south of the 35th parallel, but north of the
31 incorrectly placed state boundary line which currently divides Georgia from Tennessee
32 and North Carolina, as land occupied by Georgia; and

33 (3) The State of Georgia, all political subdivisions, and the Georgia Department of
34 Defense to pursue any additional measures, as may be necessary, to advance this claim
35 and protect the sovereign integrity of Georgia's boundaries, as originally established and
36 confirmed by federal statutes and the Supreme Court of the United States.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to each member of the
39 Congressional delegation, the federal Department of the Interior, and the public.