

Senate Resolution 878

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Robertson of the 29th, Jackson of the 41st
and Jones of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging state law enforcement agencies to consider adopting best practices through
2 programs implemented by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and the Georgia Association of
3 Chiefs of Police; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Office of Sheriff Accreditation Program and the Georgia Law
5 Enforcement Certification Program is to establish guidelines and promote professionalism
6 in law enforcement, supervise the accreditation or certification process, and award
7 accreditation or certification status to law enforcement agencies which meet standards for
8 best practices; and

9 WHEREAS, being an accredited or certified agency reduces an agency's chances of violating
10 citizens and better protects the rights of law enforcement officials while performing their
11 duties by providing a detailed plan for effective, professional law enforcement, including safe
12 policing principles, developing professionalism, operational guidance, positive community
13 support, transparency, ethical conduct, and liability protection; and

14 WHEREAS, should a sheriff's office or police agency obtain accreditation or certification
15 status, liability insurance from the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency provides for
16 a 20 percent discount on premiums for such insurance; and

17 WHEREAS, the benefits of accreditation or certification include confirmation that the law
18 enforcement agency's practices adhere to a comprehensive and progressive set of
19 professional standards. Those who complete accreditation or certification also have greater
20 operational and administrative effectiveness and improved comprehension of agency policies
21 and practices; and

22 WHEREAS, only 20 percent of Georgia's law enforcement agencies currently hold state
23 accreditation or certification; and

24 WHEREAS, a law enforcement agency's accreditation or certification status represents a
25 significant professional achievement which in turn generates greater public trust in those
26 agencies that have attained accreditation or certification.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 encourage state law enforcement agencies to consider adopting state accreditation or
29 certification so as to strengthen law enforcement safety and generate greater public trust.

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