

Senate Resolution 126

By: Senators Esteves of the 35th, Merritt of the 9th, Orrock of the 36th, Harbison of the 15th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 13, 2025, as World Refugee Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has a long history of extending welcome to new Americans from
4 around the world, giving them an opportunity to live, work, and thrive in the state; and

5 WHEREAS, today, one in ten Georgians—more than one million people—are foreign-born,
6 bringing valuable skills and talents from countries around the world to the state; and

7 WHEREAS, approximately one in eight Georgia workers is foreign-born, as are one in five
8 doctors and home health aides; one in five science and technology professionals; one in five
9 manufacturing workers; and nearly half of all workers in the construction industry; and

10 WHEREAS, hardworking foreign-born Georgians across all sectors paid over \$11 billion in
11 federal, state, and local taxes and held more than \$32 billion in spending power in 2021
12 alone; and

13 WHEREAS, nearly half of all foreign-born Georgians are already naturalized United States
14 citizens eligible to vote and many more are on the path toward citizenship; and

15 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians were never more essential to the state than during the
16 COVID-19 pandemic, serving in disproportionate numbers in front line jobs in hospitals and
17 assisted living facilities, farms and food processing plants, warehouses and delivery services,
18 and more; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia has one of the oldest and most successful refugee programs in the
20 United States, with approximately 90 percent of refugees economically self-sufficient within
21 six months; and

22 WHEREAS, aid organizations with the state such as the Coalition of Refugee Service
23 Agencies and The Welcome Co-Op further serve to bridge the gap for incoming refugees as
24 well as highlight the cultural, social, and economic contributions of immigrants in Georgia;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia is a welcoming home for peoples of all origins and from all walks of
27 life, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that these new Americans be appropriately
28 recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend the manifold contributions of immigrants and refugees to the State
31 of Georgia and recognize February 13, 2025, as World Refugee Day at the state capitol.

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