

Senate Resolution 205

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 44th, Lucas of the 26th, Jones of the 10th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of the Honorable Vincent D. Fort and dedicating an
2 intersection in his memory; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable Vincent D. Fort was born on April 28, 1956, in New Britain,
4 Connecticut, a beloved son of Charles Fort, Sr., and Clara Hutchinson Fort; and

5 WHEREAS, after completing his higher education, he settled in Atlanta, Georgia, where he
6 became a respected historian, taught at Morehouse College and Morris Brown College, and
7 served as assistant director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers Project; and

8 WHEREAS, he served as a Georgia State Senator for the 39th District from 1996 to 2017,
9 representing parts of Atlanta, East Point, College Park, Union City, and unincorporated
10 Fulton County as well as consistently advocating for justice and equity for all; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2001, Senator Fort authored Georgia's first hate crimes law, ensuring harsher
12 penalties for crimes motivated by bias, as well as the Georgia Fair Lending Act, which stood
13 at the time as the strongest anti-predatory lending legislation in the nation and protected
14 consumers from abusive practices; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2011, he was elected as Georgia's Democratic Whip, during which time he
16 championed legislation against discrimination, racial profiling, environmental racism, and
17 labor injustices while supporting fair wages, labor unions, and stronger community
18 protections; and

19 WHEREAS, he was named "Legislator of the Year" in 2017 by the Georgia Association of
20 Educators for his advocacy of Senate Bill 30, which aimed to improve public education
21 funding and enhance community schools; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Cheryl, and the two were
23 blessed with three remarkable children, Nyahuma, Clara-Faith, and Zoë, as well as three
24 wonderful grandchildren, Gizelle, Chloe, and Sunday; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Fort was a powerful voice for economic and racial equality, and his
26 commitment to the people will leave a lasting impact on the City of Atlanta and the State of
27 Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
29 Georgian be appropriately recognized by dedicating an intersection in his memory.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of State Route 139/Ralph David Abernathy
32 Boulevard and Lee Street Southwest in Fulton County is dedicated as the Senator Vincent
33 D. Fort Memorial Intersection.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
35 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Senator Vincent D. Fort
36 Memorial Intersection.

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 the family of the
39 Honorable Vincent D. Fort and to the Department of Transportation.