

Senate Resolution 254

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Hodges of the 3rd, Burns of the 23rd, Ginn of the 47th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the work of Georgia's aerospace and defense industry and recognizing February
2 26, 2025, as Georgia Aerospace Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is home to a robust aerospace industry, encompassing more
4 than 800 companies, including an estimated 320 aerospace manufacturing firms, more than
5 120 MRO facilities, and over 70 airline and charter operations that employ more than
6 200,000 Georgians; and

7 WHEREAS, aerospace products are Georgia's top export product category and the state's
8 second-largest manufacturing industry, generating an estimated annual economic impact of
9 \$57.5 billion; and

10 WHEREAS, aerospace has remained the State of Georgia's No. 1 international export since
11 2004, with 2023 aerospace and defense exports totaling \$11.1 billion, including civilian
12 aircraft and parts, turbojets, turbopropellers, aircraft launching gear, parachutes, and
13 non-powered aircraft; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2023, Georgia's top five international markets for aerospace industry exports
15 were Singapore, Germany, Poland, India, and Hong Kong; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia's higher education institutions are dedicated to delivering top-tier talent
17 through the aerospace career pipeline; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Institute of Technology is home to the No. 1 aerospace engineering
19 program in the United States, according to *U.S. News and World Report*; and

20 WHEREAS, Middle Georgia University is home to Georgia's flagship School of Aviation
21 and is the only university in Georgia offering three FAA-certified programs; the only public
22 university to offer a bachelor's degree in flight, supporting the aviation industry through
23 programs in business administration, information technology, cybersecurity, and specialized
24 aviation disciplines; was selected as one of only eight aviation universities in the nation as
25 the initial cadre for Delta Air Lines' Propel Collegiate Pilot Career Path; offers maintenance
26 training ranging from certificates to bachelor's degrees; and is one of 31 schools in the nation
27 to offer the FAA-certified Air Traffic Control program; and

28 WHEREAS, Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC), a research institute of Mercer
29 University, has been an integral part of the Robins Air Force Base community since 1987;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern University's Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and
32 Computing is advancing aerospace innovation through cutting-edge research in sustainable
33 fuels, aircraft power systems, and advanced manufacturing while equipping students with the
34 skills and expertise needed to support Georgia's aerospace industry; and

35 WHEREAS, the flagship and land-grant institution of the State of Georgia, the University
36 of Georgia's College of Engineering, is dedicated to supporting the state's thriving and

37 expanding aerospace industry through education, workforce development, and collaborative
38 and innovative research and by providing support to those investing in our great state; and

39 WHEREAS, Lockheed Martin has operated continuously in Marietta, Georgia, for 74 years
40 and builds two iconic military programs, the C-130J Super Hercules and the F-35 Lightning
41 II, in the State of Georgia, supporting direct and indirect jobs for more than 12,000
42 Georgians; and

43 WHEREAS, as the largest manufacturer in the state, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation has
44 operated continuously at its worldwide headquarters in Savannah, Georgia, since 1967,
45 designing, manufacturing, and supporting the world's most technologically advanced
46 business aircraft; employing more than 13,000 in Georgia; and supporting a Georgia payroll
47 of over \$1.4 billion; and

48 WHEREAS, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the world's busiest and
49 most efficient passenger airport, and Georgia is home to the largest single container terminal
50 and most extensive rail and interstate system in the Southeast, providing a seamless air, sea,
51 and ground transportation network; and

52 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud of its longstanding connection to the United States military
53 community, including eight active military bases, the United States Army Cyber Command
54 Headquarters, and the VECTR military workforce training center; and

55 WHEREAS, seven of the world's top ten defense contractors maintain a presence within the
56 State of Georgia, serving as top employers for newly retired veterans; and

57 WHEREAS, Georgia's aerospace and defense industry continues to grow thanks to the state's
58 positive business climate and bipartisan support at the local, state, and federal levels of
59 government.

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
61 honor Georgia's aerospace and defense industry and recognize February 26, 2025, as Georgia
62 Aerospace Day at the state capitol.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
64 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to representatives of
65 the aerospace and defense industry, higher education officials, and other representatives as
66 deemed necessary.