

Senate Resolution 741

By: Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Anavitarte of the 31st, Hatchett of the 50th, Watson of the 1st, Bearden of the 30th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 12, 2026, as New Americans Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for the past 13 years, New Americans Day celebrations have brought hundreds
4 of new Americans, friends, and community supporters to the state capitol annually for a day
5 of education and celebration; and

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

8 WHEREAS, today, 11 percent of Georgians—more than 1.2 million people—are foreign-
9 born, bringing valuable skills and talents from countries around the world to the state; and

10 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians contribute \$15.8 billion in federal, state, and local taxes
11 annually and represent over \$44 billion in spending power; and

12 WHEREAS, approximately one in seven Georgia workers is foreign-born, and are twice as
13 likely to fill high-demand roles such as home health aides, physicians, and surgeons as
14 U.S.-born workers; and

15 WHEREAS, foreign-born Georgians are 41 percent more likely than others to start new
16 businesses in the state, accounting for more than 20 percent of entrepreneurs in the state and
17 generating more than \$3.4 billion in business income annually; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia has provided refuge to thousands and granted humanitarian parole to
19 escape other countries and come safely to the United States, including many who risked their
20 lives to support the United States' mission overseas; and

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

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

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 commend the manifold contributions of immigrants to the State of Georgia and recognize
29 February 12, 2026, as New Americans Day at the state capitol.

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.