

Senate Resolution 1101

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Atlanta History Center; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center was founded in 1926 as the Atlanta Historical
4 Society by civic leaders, including Walter McElreath, with the mission of preserving
5 historical sources related to Atlanta, studying the city's past, and promoting public
6 understanding of the region's history; and

7 WHEREAS, over the course of the past century, the organization has grown from a small
8 historical society that initially met in members' homes and collected historical materials into
9 one of the leading cultural and historical institutions in the Southeastern United States; and

10 WHEREAS, today, the Atlanta History Center operates a 33-acre campus in the Buckhead
11 district of Atlanta that includes the Atlanta History Museum, historic houses, research
12 archives, educational facilities, and gardens that collectively preserve and interpret the rich
13 and diverse history of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and the American South; and

14 WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center preserves and interprets significant historic
15 structures, including the Swan House, a 1928 mansion designed by architect Philip Trammell

16 Shutze; the Smith Family Farm, which provides insight into rural life and the history of
17 agriculture and slavery in nineteenth-century Georgia; and the Wood Family Cabin, a historic
18 frontier-era log structure that represents early settlement in the region; and

19 WHEREAS, the institution also operates the Margaret Mitchell House and Museum in
20 Midtown Atlanta, the apartment building where author Margaret Mitchell wrote the novel
21 *Gone with the Wind*, one of the most widely read works of American literature; and

22 WHEREAS, through the Kenan Research Center, the Atlanta History Center maintains
23 extensive archival collections that preserve manuscripts, photographs, books, oral histories,
24 and other historical materials documenting the people, businesses, culture, and development
25 of Atlanta and the surrounding region; and

26 WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center holds millions of historical artifacts and documents,
27 including one of the most significant collections of Civil War artifacts in the United States,
28 making it a vital resource for scholars, educators, students, and researchers studying the
29 history of Georgia and the American South; and

30 WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center plays an important role in preserving and
31 interpreting the history of the Civil Rights Movement, a defining period in both Georgia and
32 American history, through exhibitions, research collections, and educational programming
33 that examine the struggle for racial equality, justice, and democratic participation; and

34 WHEREAS, by presenting exhibitions and historical scholarship related to the Civil Rights
35 Movement and the broader social transformations of the twentieth century, the Atlanta
36 History Center helps ensure that the stories of those who fought for civil rights and social
37 justice are preserved and shared with future generations; and

38 WHEREAS, the center's educational programs, lectures, exhibitions, and community
39 initiatives provide opportunities for students, educators, and visitors to engage with complex
40 historical topics, fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences and perspectives
41 that have shaped Atlanta's growth from a nineteenth-century railroad hub into a modern
42 global city; and

43 WHEREAS, the Atlanta History Center serves as a major cultural and educational
44 destination for the State of Georgia, welcoming visitors from across the nation and around
45 the world while contributing to the preservation of Georgia's historical legacy and cultural
46 heritage; and

47 WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the centennial anniversary of the Atlanta History Center's
48 founding, representing 100 years of dedication to historical preservation, scholarship,
49 education, and storytelling that connects people to the past and inspires future generations;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the Atlanta History Center for its
52 century-long commitment to preserving history, promoting civic understanding, and
53 honoring the individuals and movements that have shaped the State of Georgia and the
54 nation.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
56 recognize and commend the Atlanta History Center upon the grand occasion of its 100th
57 anniversary and extend sincere best wishes for continued success.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
59 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Atlanta History
60 Center.