

House Resolution 572

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15th, Scoggins of the 14th, Kelley of the 16th, Silcox of the 53rd, Smith of the 18th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the magistrate court system; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, established in 1983 by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the magistrate
3 court system signaled a major change to the court system that consisted of some parts which
4 had existed since colonial times; and

5 WHEREAS, in order to provide for a more unified court system, the 1983 Constitution
6 provided for uniform jurisdiction, rules of practice, and procedure for the magistrate courts,
7 replacing numerous courts that had differing civil and criminal jurisdictions and practices;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the legislation replaced the Justices of the Peace courts that were in the 1976
10 Constitution; in the 1983 Constitution, Article VI, Section I, Paragraph I vests certain judicial
11 power to the magistrate courts and Article VI, Section I, Paragraph VI provides that each
12 county shall have at least one magistrate court; and

13 WHEREAS, for 40 years, the magistrate courts have provided Georgia citizens with
14 cost-effective access to the civil justice system in all 159 counties in Georgia and have
15 played a crucial role in the criminal justice system, determining whether or not arrest

16 warrants and search warrants should be issued, setting bonds, holding probable cause
17 hearings, and trying certain misdemeanor offenses; and

18 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that such an important aspect of Georgia's
19 justice system be appropriately recognized.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body celebrate the 40th anniversary of the magistrate court system.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
24 Brandon T. Bryson, chief magistrate judge of Bartow County, Georgia.