

Senate Bill 239

By: Senator James of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia International Affairs
3 Commission; to provide for membership and terms of office; to provide for assignment of
4 the commission to the Department of Economic Development for administrative purposes;
5 to provide for powers and duties; to require an annual report; to provide for related matters;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions
10 and other agencies, is amended by repealing and reenacting Article 1 to read as follows:

11 "ARTICLE 1

12 50-12-1.

13 (a) There is created the Georgia International Affairs Commission. The commission shall
14 be composed of 21 members as follows:

15 (1) The Governor, ex officio, who shall be the chairperson of the commission;

16 (2) Eight members shall be appointed by the Governor;

17 (3) Six members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

18 (4) Six members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

19 (b) The members of the commission shall be any persons of recognized ability and
20 achievement. All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the original appointing
21 official. Each appointed member shall serve for terms equivalent to the term of office of
22 the appointing official who made his or her appointment and until his or her successor has
23 been appointed. Members shall be eligible for successive appointments by an appointing
24 official. Each person appointed to the commission shall be a full-time resident of Georgia.

25 Any member who ceases to be a full-time resident of Georgia during the term of his or her
26 membership shall be removed from the commission, and such vacancy shall be filled by
27 the appointing official who made the original appointment.

28 (c) The commission shall be assigned to the Department of Economic Development for
29 administrative purposes only, as prescribed in Code Section 50-4-3.

30 50-12-2.

31 (a) The commission shall elect a vice chairperson and a secretary from among its members
32 for terms of two years, and any member shall be eligible for successive election to such
33 office by the commission.

34 (b) A quorum for transacting business shall be a majority of the members of the
35 commission.

36 50-12-3.

37 (a) The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

38 (1) To be a resource and an ambassador to foreign states regarding economic and social
39 matters concerning this state, including, but not limited to, energy, natural resources,
40 agriculture, tourism, entertainment, and sports;

41 (2) To investigate, study, and undertake ways and means of establishing and maintaining
42 this state as an international state;

43 (3) To facilitate relations with foreign states that serve to benefit this state and to
44 investigate, study, and undertake ways and means of establishing and maintaining such
45 positive relations;

46 (4) To promote, encourage, and provide advisory assistance to state, local, and
47 community professional, business, and civic organizations regarding international affairs;

48 (5) To collect and disseminate information regarding international relations;

49 (6) To consult with and advise the Governor and any state department, agency, board,
50 commission, or authority on matters pertaining to international relations;

51 (7) To cooperate with the government of the United States and the governments of other
52 states in programs relating to international relations;

53 (8) To accept public or private grants, devises, and bequests; and

54 (9) To hold public hearings, conduct studies, or take any other action the commission
55 deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

56 (b) The commission shall organize itself into subcommittees specializing on the regions
57 of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe.

58 (c) The commission shall be authorized to enter into all contracts and agreements
59 necessary or incidental to perform its duties.

60 (d) All executive departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities shall
61 cooperate with the commission in the performance of its duties.

62 50-12-4.

63 The members of the commission shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while
64 conducting the business of the commission from public or private grants, devises, or
65 bequests received by the commission.

66 50-12-5.

67 The commission shall publish in print or electronically an annual report summarizing the
68 activities, findings, and recommendations of the commission. The report shall be
69 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
70 Representatives, and all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later
71 than November 1 of each year beginning in 2020."

72 **SECTION 2.**

73 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.