

Senate Resolution 222

By: Senators Cowser of the 46th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd and Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the State of Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who both deeply cherish
4 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

5 WHEREAS, in the year of 2016, Taiwan held its sixth direct presidential election, and Tsai
6 Ing-wen was elected as the 14th President of Taiwan, becoming the first female president in
7 the country's history, and she hopes to continue to build the country's already rich tradition
8 of economic vitality, cultural growth and innovation, self-sufficiency in national defense, and
9 protecting Taiwan's democracy; and

10 WHEREAS, Taiwan adopted a "New Southbound Policy" in 2016 to promote Taiwan's
11 economic, technological, and cultural connections with Southeast Asia, South Asia,
12 Australia, and New Zealand, serving the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the
13 continuation of stability and growth; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan and mainland China have signed more than 20 agreements in the past
15 decade. United States businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in
16 Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights and then use Taiwan as a
17 springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, and the United States
19 is Taiwan's second largest trading partner. Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the
20 United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the sixth largest export market in Asia for the State of Georgia.
22 Annually, 420 million of Georgia's goods export to Taiwan, and \$327 million investment to

23 Georgia is from Taiwan. Taiwan supports an estimated 5,000 jobs in the State of Georgia;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, since 1984, the State of Georgia and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and
26 mutually beneficial sister-statehood, a friendship that has continued to strengthen for the past
27 35 years; about 20,000 Taiwanese Americans in Georgia make a concrete contribution to
28 Georgia's economy and culture; and

29 WHEREAS, the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law in 1979 by the United States,
30 which has been the cornerstone for protecting the national interests of the United States in
31 maintaining a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Asia-Pacific area. In 2019, the Taiwanese
32 community in Georgia has planned more than 40 activities in celebrating the 40th
33 anniversary of Taiwan relations; and

34 WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan into the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a
35 significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan choosing the United States as their destination
36 for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

37 WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an
38 even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of the U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Trade
39 Agreement, to enhance the special sister-state bond between Georgia and Taiwan and to
40 encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both
41 nations; and

42 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a long history
43 of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid as well as environmental
44 protection.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 commend and support the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, the democratization
47 efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization,
48 the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the UN Framework Convention on
49 Climate Change, as well as other international organizations, and extend their most sincere
50 best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
52 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Vincent
53 Jing-Yen Liu, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.