

Senate Resolution 362

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Dugan of the 30th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Tillery of the 19th and Strickland of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta, has a long and
4 distinguished record of service to Ireland; and

5 WHEREAS, Consul General Stephens assumed his post in Atlanta in July, 2015, as the
6 second Irish Consul General for the U.S. Southeastern region, responsible for Georgia,
7 Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and

8 WHEREAS, since joining Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2001, Mr.
9 Stephens has served at Ireland's Embassies to Tanzania, the Holy See, the European Union,
10 Nigeria, and Malaysia; and

11 WHEREAS, immediately prior to his current post, while working as Assistant Chief of
12 Protocol for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, he was responsible for
13 arranging many of President Michael D. Higgins' visits abroad and incoming Presidential
14 visits to Ireland; and

15 WHEREAS, approximately 800,000 Georgians proudly claim Irish heritage and a shared
16 history that began less than a year after James Oglethorpe and the first settlers founded the
17 City of Savannah in 1733 and when the first dedicated Irish settlement in Georgia was
18 established in the 1760s in what is now Jefferson County; and

19 WHEREAS, with increasing economic and academic links between the State of Georgia and
20 Ireland, this historic relationship continues to thrive with the thoughtful stewardship of
21 Consul General Stephens; and

22 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
23 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
25 remarkable and distinguished diplomat be appropriately recognized.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta, for his gracious service on
28 behalf of Ireland and recognize the deep bonds of commerce, history, and friendship between
29 the State of Georgia and Ireland.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Shane Stephens,
32 Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta.