

Senate Resolution 365

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Islam of the 7th, Esteves of the 6th, Jones of the 10th, Mallow of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the festival of Navroz as well as the Shia Ismaili Muslim community residing
2 in and contributing to the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, March 21, 2023, marks the festival of Navroz, which is the beginning of a new
4 year and the first day of spring and is celebrated by diverse cultures and communities in
5 Georgia and around the world, including Shia Ismaili Muslims; and

6 WHEREAS, tracing its origins to ancient Persia, this festival of Navroz signifies a time of
7 spiritual renewal and physical rejuvenation as well as a spirit of gratitude for blessings and
8 an outlook of hope and optimism; and

9 WHEREAS, Ismaili Muslims make up a culturally diverse and global community of
10 approximately 15 million individuals who adhere to a 1,400-year tradition of Shia Ismaili
11 Muslim values led by His Highness the Aga Khan, the living Imam or spiritual leader; and

12 WHEREAS, the Ismaili community has been deeply engaged with the Aga Khan
13 Development Network over the last 60 years, working to alleviate poverty, improve living
14 conditions, and create opportunities for people around the world and at home in Georgia

15 through the fields of health, education, art, culture, rural development, and the promotion of
16 private-sector enterprise; and

17 WHEREAS, under the Aga Khan Development Network, the Aga Khan Award for
18 Architecture recently completed its 45th anniversary as an international triennial award
19 recognizing architecture, planning practices, historic preservation, and landscape projects that
20 set new standards of excellence with an emphasis on local communities, culture, and the
21 environment, thereby successfully addressing the needs and aspirations of societies across
22 the world in which Muslims have a significant presence; and

23 WHEREAS, the Ismaili community contributes to Georgia's success through knowledge
24 sharing, commercial activity, civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and voluntary
25 service; and

26 WHEREAS, Ismaili CIVIC is the voluntary service organization for the Ismaili community,
27 exemplifying Islam's core values of service, peace, compassion, and care for the vulnerable
28 with service through memorandums of understanding and partnerships with local
29 organizations, including The American Red Cross of Georgia, the Atlanta Community Food
30 Bank, and Hands on Atlanta, as well as interfaith groups including Interfaith Atlanta and
31 Georgia Interfaith Power & Light.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that members of its body
33 recognize and commend the Shia Ismaili Muslim community for their contributions to the
34 State of Georgia and celebrate Navroz on March 21, 2023.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Ismaili Council
37 for the Southeastern United States.