

Senate Resolution 678

By: Senators Rahman of the 5th, Jones II of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th,
Parent of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting a state goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050, the creation of thriving-wage
2 green jobs, and an equitable clean energy transition; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, thirteen federal agencies, including NASA, the Department of Defense, and the
4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, contributed to the Fourth National
5 Climate Assessment, which was completed in November 2018; the report found that carbon
6 pollution will threaten Georgia and the Southeast with increased temperatures, drought, and
7 extreme weather and that Georgia's coast will be threatened by flooding, sea-level rise, and
8 stronger and more frequent hurricanes; and

9 WHEREAS, studies completed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Risky
10 Business Project, Duke University, and others point to the severe economic costs of carbon
11 pollution and the continued use of fossil fuels, estimating billions of dollars nationally and
12 trillions globally in costs each year; and

13 WHEREAS, communities of color and people with lower incomes in Georgia and the United
14 States are inordinately exposed to pollution from fossil fuels, including the dirtiest coal-fired
15 power plants that produce coal ash, which disproportionately affects communities of color
16 and causes serious health problems such as cancer and asthma; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia households with incomes below 50 percent of the federal poverty level
18 pay 41 percent of their annual income in home energy costs, and Georgia is the eighth most
19 energy-expensive state in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the "energy burden," or percentage of household income spent on energy bills,
21 is a crippling financial burden for families with lower incomes, and the energy burden on
22 African-American and Latino households with lower incomes is up to three times as high as
23 other households; and

24 WHEREAS, leading economists, policy experts, and business leaders conclude that a
25 transition to a clean energy economy available for all would create millions of green jobs
26 nationally, improve our living standards, and boost economic growth in coming years; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia's future competitiveness depends on leveraging the clean energy
28 economy to uplift employment equity and create a future where any Georgian who wants to
29 work can find a good job that pays family-supporting wages; with full employment for all,
30 Georgia could grow economic output by \$12 billion every year; and

31 WHEREAS, numerous cities, including Atlanta, Savannah, and Athens; multiple
32 universities; and businesses around Georgia have adopted or are considering commitments
33 to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2035; and

34 WHEREAS, solar energy in Georgia has seen enormous growth in the past ten years, and
35 Georgia now has more than 2600 MW of solar capacity installed, which is enough to power
36 312,450 homes and rank Georgia as a top ten state for solar energy; and

37 WHEREAS, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic include Georgia ranking
38 as second highest in the nation for the number of clean energy jobs lost, but a recovery period
39 with a clean energy focus could revitalize our economy and put Georgians back to work; and

40 WHEREAS, Georgia Power's parent company, Southern Company, has publicly committed
41 to owning a low to zero carbon generation fleet by 2050; and

42 WHEREAS, there is evidence of increased incidences of extreme weather, and stronger
43 storms are already having a huge impact on Georgia—Georgia's Department of Agriculture
44 has estimated that Hurricane Michael resulted in losses totaling \$3 billion in 2018; and

45 WHEREAS, corporate entities operating in Georgia, including Bank of America, Ikea,
46 Google, T-Mobile, and Walmart, have made commitments to purchasing 100 percent clean
47 energy on a variety of timelines.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
49 support the transition from fossil fuels to 100 percent safe, clean, renewable, and equitable
50 energy for all energy sector economies in the State of Georgia by December 31, 2050, to
51 promote job creation and economic growth and to protect the Earth for current and future
52 generations.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
54 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
55 press.