

House Resolution 1641

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, McLaurin of the 51st, Clark of the 108th, Robichaux of the 48th, Moore of the 95th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the need for federal fiscal relief and new state revenue streams to ensure an
2 equitable economic recovery in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as of June 22, 2020, 64,701 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in
4 Georgia, leading 9,864 Georgians to be hospitalized and 2,643 Georgians to lose their lives
5 to the novel coronavirus; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to the public health consequences and the tragic loss of life, the
7 COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating economic impact on working families, leading
8 more than 2.3 million Georgians to file unemployment claims between March 21 and May
9 30, 2020, according to the Georgia Department of Labor; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia faces an estimated \$3.5 billion budget shortfall for FY 2021, and
11 proposed state budget cuts will exacerbate the current crisis and delay economic recovery by
12 eliminating thousands of jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, the financial hardship caused by COVID-19 and its secondary consequences
14 are disproportionately severe for communities of color as well as rural and low income
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, an effective and equitable recovery from COVID-19 demands bold and
17 compassionate action from leaders at both the state and federal levels; and

18 WHEREAS, lawmakers can significantly reduce the economic and financial hardship
19 endured by all Americans by passing legislative packages that provide support to states and
20 individuals; and

21 WHEREAS, stimulus payments through the CARES Act and additional federal funding
22 provided vital support for families and businesses, and the continued economic downturn
23 demands additional assistance; and

24 WHEREAS, federal lawmakers have the ability to pass legislation that secures additional
25 financial assistance for Americans in the form of stimulus payments, extends unemployment
26 benefits, supports small businesses, and provides robust fiscal relief to offset state budget
27 shortfalls; and

28 WHEREAS, in addition to these protections, given the bravery and selfless service of
29 grocery store workers, pharmacy workers, and food production workers during the
30 COVID-19 pandemic, federal and state lawmakers should support their classification as
31 emergency service providers and personnel so that they receive the same benefits as other
32 frontline workers; and

33 WHEREAS, during the 2008 Great Recession, Georgia lawmakers directed federal funding
34 to help those most in need in the form of crisis payments, which state leaders should do with
35 federal COVID-19 funds to mitigate harm and provide support to help Georgians weather
36 economic hardships and reestablish financial stability; and

37 WHEREAS, state leaders have additional tools at their disposal to avoid harmful budget cuts
38 that will slow Georgia's economic recovery and hurt working families, including establishing
39 new revenue streams by modernizing Georgia's tobacco tax, eliminating the double
40 deduction, and restricting the transferability of tax credits, which together would raise an
41 estimated \$1.3 billion in additional state revenue; and

42 WHEREAS, common sense policies and actions by federal and state leaders will help
43 Georgians regain economic stability, protect the well-being of working families, and keep
44 Georgia open for business.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body affirm their commitment to an equitable economic recovery from
47 COVID-19 that prioritizes the well-being of working families and Georgia's most vulnerable
48 citizens.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this body encourage Georgia's
50 congressional delegation to pass legislation that will protect Georgia's civilians, support small
51 businesses, and provide fiscal relief for the state government.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
53 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
54 public and the press.