

House Resolution 354

By: Representative Gilliard of the 162nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mayor Edna Jackson and dedicating an interchange in her honor; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mayor Edna Jackson has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
4 the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Jackson was born on September 18, 1944, in Savannah, Georgia, the
7 beloved daughter of Henry Reid and Georgia Branch Dillard; and

8 WHEREAS, a graduate of Alfred E. Beach High School, Mayor Jackson earned bachelor's
9 and master's degrees from Savannah State University and was active in the Youth Council
10 of the NAACP, traveling throughout the South while in college to assist in voter registration
11 drives and sit-in demonstrations; and

12 WHEREAS, Mayor Jackson began her career as a social worker with the Economic
13 Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County Area and, in 1971, was hired to serve
14 as the director of the emergency school assistant program at Savannah State University,

15 where she also served as the director of alumni affairs and coordinator of the Elderhostel
16 Program before her retirement in 2001; and

17 WHEREAS, she began her political career as alderman at large on the City Council of
18 Savannah, serving for three terms, and then served as mayor pro tempore of Savannah for
19 two terms; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2012, Mayor Jackson became the first African American woman to be
21 elected as mayor of Savannah, serving for one term; and

22 WHEREAS, she has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the
23 A Working Woman in Need's Top 10 Working Women of the Year Award, Outstanding
24 Alumnus by Savannah State University, and one of the 2012 Power Women by
25 *GeorgiaTrend* magazine; and

26 WHEREAS, her leadership has been instrumental to numerous organizations, including as
27 the southern regional vice president and national vice president of Savannah State University
28 and vice chairman of the Chatham County Democratic Executive Committee and World
29 Trade Center Savannah, Chatham County Hospital Authority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
30 St. Phillip A.M.E. Church, the U.S. Selective Board, and the Georgia Advisory Committee
31 for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, the Military Academy Selection Committee and
32 the Regional Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Savannah Regional Second
33 Harvest Food Bank, and Equal Opportunity Authority; and

34 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable and distinguished
35 Georgian be recognized appropriately by dedicating an interchange in her honor.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
37 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the interchange at Interstate 516 and Veterans Parkway in
38 Chatham County is dedicated as the Mayor Edna Jackson Interchange.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
40 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Mayor Edna Jackson
41 Interchange.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mayor
44 Edna Jackson and to the Department of Transportation.