House Resolution 657

By: Representatives Willard of the 51st, Jacobs of the 80th, Oliver of the 82nd, Weldon of the 3rd, Welch of the 110th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1   Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the magistrate court system; and for other purposes.

2   WHEREAS, established in 1983 by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the magistrate
3   court system signaled a major change to the court system that consisted of some parts which
4   had existed since colonial times; and

5   WHEREAS, in order to provide for a more unified court system, the 1983 Constitution
6   provided for uniform jurisdiction, rules of practice, and procedure for the magistrate courts,
7   replacing numerous courts that had differing civil and criminal jurisdictions and practices;
8   and

9   WHEREAS, the legislation replaced the Justices of the Peace courts that were in the 1976
10   Constitution; in the 1983 Constitution, Article VI, Section I, Paragraph I vests certain judicial
11   power in the magistrate courts and Article VI, Section I, Paragraph VI provides that each
12   county shall have at least one magistrate court; and

13   WHEREAS, for 30 years the magistrate courts have provided Georgia citizens with
14   cost-effective access to the civil justice system in all 159 counties in Georgia and have
15   played a crucial role in the criminal justice system, determining whether or not arrest
16   warrants and search warrants should be issued, setting bonds, holding probable cause
17   hearings, and trying certain misdemeanor offenses; and

18   WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that such an important aspect of Georgia's
19   justice system be appropriately recognized.

20   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21   the members of this body celebrate the 30th anniversary of the magistrate court system.

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized

23   and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Dekalb County

24   Magistrate Court Judge Alan C. Harvey.