

Senate Resolution 167

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Cowser of the 46th, Tillery of the 19th, Mullis of the 53rd and Payne of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States and the State of Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are longstanding allies who both deeply cherish
4 the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the
6 Taiwan Travel Act in 2018, and the TAIPEI Act in 2019; in 2020, the United States and
7 Taiwan enjoyed a high point in bilateral relations, including the highest-ranking official visits
8 in 40 years and the establishment of the US-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership
9 Dialogue and the US-Taiwan Educational Initiative, which expand economic exchanges and
10 promote academic freedom in English and Mandarin language instruction; and

11 WHEREAS, Taiwan has remained a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Asia-Pacific
12 despite continuous threats from the authoritarian neighbor of China, which has encroached
13 on Taiwan's security by flying in Taiwan's air defense identification zone and across the
14 median line of the Taiwan Strait as well as degraded the freedom of Hong Kong through the
15 2020 Hong Kong National Security Law; therefore, Taiwan's democracy needs to be
16 supported by like-minded allies such as this representative body; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2020, Taiwan achieved immense success in combating the COVID-19
18 pandemic and contributed extensive resources to helping the international community,
19 including the global donation of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of
20 thousands of isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of forehead thermometers, as well as
21 140,000 surgical and 10,000 N95 masks to the State of Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, beginning in January 2021, Taiwan will significantly ease import restrictions
23 on United States pork and beef products, growing the State of Georgia and the United States'
24 agricultural exports to Taiwan and paving the way for deeper economic cooperation; and

25 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, and the United States
26 is Taiwan's second largest trading partner; Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the
27 United States, and Taiwan is Georgia's nineteenth largest export market and tenth largest
28 import country, investing \$327 million in Georgia and supporting an estimated 5,401 jobs
29 in the State of Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership,
31 such as the signing of a United States-Taiwan bilateral trade agreement and the establishment
32 of its trade office in Taiwan, in order to enhance the special sister-state relations each country
33 has enjoyed since 1984; to encourage further business, educational, cultural, and
34 people-to-people exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and to recover better
35 together in the post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 commend and support Taiwan's democracy, freedom, and meaningful participation in
38 international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil
39 Aviation Organization, INTERPOL, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and

40 the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership; support the
41 signing of a United States-Taiwan bilateral trade agreement and an educational memorandum
42 of understanding with Georgia promoting Mandarin and English study exchanges; and
43 support a reciprocal driver's license agreement between Taiwan and Georgia.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Governor Brian
46 Kemp; Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger; and Mr. Elliot Yi-Lung Wang,
47 director-general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.