

Senate Resolution 398

By: Senators Hodges of the 3rd, Dugan of the 30th, Williams of the 25th, Still of the 48th, Echols of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Jekyll Island Authority Executive Director Jones Hooks on
2 his outstanding public service and retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Executive Director Jones Hooks has been recognized by the citizens of this state
4 for his outstanding stewardship and commitments to revitalize, retain, and protect Jekyll
5 Island State Park, one of Georgia's and the south's most treasured state parks and tourist
6 destinations; and

7 WHEREAS, born in Metter, he has remained a public servant to the State of Georgia through
8 economic development for most of his professional life, graduating from the University of
9 Georgia in 1975 and receiving an Master of Business Administration from George
10 Washington University; and

11 WHEREAS, he first served as executive director of the Kings Bay Impact Coordinating
12 Committee for six years then as president and CEO of the Albany-Doherty Chamber of
13 Commerce and Economic Development Commission for six years. He served as senior
14 manager for KPMG in Atlanta for two years, managing operations for a highly confidential
15 project, Yamacraw Mission, focused on building Georgia's high-tech economy, and then nine

16 years as the president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance in
17 Norfolk, Virginia, before finding his way back to Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, he is married to his wife, Stephanie, and their union has blessed with two
19 children, Christopher and Carson, as well as five grandchildren; and

20 WHEREAS, he began the final service of his career when he was appointed by the Board of
21 the Jekyll Island Authority in 2008 to serve as its executive director and begin its
22 transformation; and

23 WHEREAS, he has overseen operations, infrastructure, marketing, and historic and new
24 development through the procurement of more than \$80.4 million in public investments and
25 more than \$222 million in private investments, leading to a highly desirable place to live,
26 work, and play for the citizens of Georgia and beyond; and

27 WHEREAS, the island remains a pillar of conservation and preservation, being one of the
28 few places wherein beachfront views and significant green space have been shielded from
29 over development, no traffic lights exist, and parks and bike paths are pristine; and

30 WHEREAS, millions of visitors can experience the resort-like atmosphere of 63-holes of
31 golf, numerous beach parks, a Landmark Historic District, the prestigious Georgia Sea Turtle
32 Center, among other amenities, balanced with the restrictions of a state park to protect
33 wildlife and provide an environment where nature and humankind can peacefully coexist;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, these strategic enhancements under his leadership have contributed to Jekyll
36 Island's significant transformation, being recognized as the #1 Best Place to Go in the United

37 States by *Money Magazine* in 2019 and a top island destination by travel and tourism
38 publications around the world and having recently celebrated its 75th anniversary as a
39 Georgia state park; and

40 WHEREAS, upon the completion of his service and stewardship to Jekyll Island for the past
41 15 years, Jones Hooks will be recognized as the longest serving executive director since the
42 establishment of the Jekyll Island Authority in 1950; and

43 WHEREAS, it is therefore appropriate and important these accomplishments and his
44 dedication to serving Jekyll Island and the State of Georgia be honored as we bid him well
45 in his long-deserved retirement.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
47 recognize and commend Jones Hooks for his outstanding public service and stewardship
48 ahead of the occasion of his retirement, extend our deepest gratitude for his contributions to
49 the State of Georgia, and wish him all the best while he lives happily in his next days of
50 retirement on the island he has meticulously cared for.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
52 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Jones Hooks.