

Senate Resolution 487

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th, Williams of the 25th, Anderson of the 24th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the Ray City Community Library's membership in state-supported public library
2 services; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the City of Ray City anticipates that funding opportunities for local facilities
4 will be available under President Donald Trump to Expand Educational Freedom and
5 Opportunities for Families; and

6 WHEREAS, the Ray City Community Library has long been a vital community resource,
7 operated by the municipality for over 20 years as a municipal library without support from
8 the State of Georgia via the Georgia Public Library Service, a unit of the Board of Regents
9 of the University System of Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, citizens have benefited from the library's dedicated support of numerous
11 community volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to its operation; and

12 WHEREAS, state support as provided by the Georgia Public Library Service is a necessary
13 prerequisite for the Ray City Community Library to access valuable library services,
14 including interlibrary loan programs, the PINES catalog, facilities planning, and professional
15 development opportunities; and

16 WHEREAS, state support as provided by the Georgia Public Library Service is also essential
17 for the Ray City Community Library to be eligible for state and federal funding
18 opportunities, which will enable the library to update its facilities, services, collections, and
19 programs for the benefit of the community; and

20 WHEREAS, under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-305, the Board of Regents of the University System of
21 Georgia is authorized to distribute state and federal funds "to county and regional public
22 libraries in proportion to the area and population to be served by such libraries...all such
23 funds shall be distributed directly to the regional or county library boards"; and

24 WHEREAS, Ray City is located within Berrien County, which is a member of the Coastal
25 Plain Regional Library System.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 express their strong support for the Ray City Community Library's membership in the
28 Coastal Plain Regional Library System in order to be eligible for support from the Georgia
29 Public Library Service.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize the significant
31 contributions of the Ray City Community Library to preserving the local heritage and
32 emphasize the importance of its continued growth and development.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge the Board of Regents,
34 the Regents Public Library Advisory Committee, the Georgia State Library System, the
35 Regional Library Board, and the Berrien County Library Board to favorably consider the Ray
36 City Community Library's facility and grant it full membership in the Coastal Plain Regional

37 Library System, thereby enabling the library to better serve the informational and educational
38 needs of citizens.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Regents Public
41 Library Advisory Committee, the Georgia State Librarian, the Coastal Plain Regional Library
42 System, the Regional and Berrien County Library Boards, elected officials, and other
43 relevant parties.