

Senate Resolution 678

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Harrell of the 40th, Sims of the 12th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 16, 2022 as Historically Black Colleges and Universities Heritage Day;
2 and for other purposes.

3

4 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were first founded
5 before the American Civil War with the purpose of opening the doors to educational
6 opportunities for many African Americans who were once legally denied higher education
7 due to racial discrimination; and

8 WHEREAS, there are over 100 HBCUs in the nation, and ten of these institutions are
9 established here in the State of Georgia: Albany State University, Clark Atlanta University,
10 Fort Valley State University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School
11 of Medicine, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Paine College, Savannah State
12 University, and Spelman College; and

13 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was the first HBCU in the Southern United States,
14 founded as Atlanta University in 1865, and Savannah State University, established in 1890,
15 is the oldest public HBCU in the State of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, HBCUs significantly contribute to the number of African American science
17 degree holders in agriculture, biology, computer science, physical science, and social science
18 and confer 40% of all STEM degrees, while also providing African American students with
19 a nurturing environment to explore their collective identities and cultures; and

20 WHEREAS, there are many notable HBCU alumni in Georgia, including U.S. Senator
21 Raphael Warnock (Morehouse College), five members of Georgia's Congressional
22 delegation: U.S. House Representatives Sanford Bishop Jr. (Morehouse College), Rep. Hank
23 Johnson (Clark College/Clark Atlanta University), Rep. Lucy McBath (Virginia State
24 University), Rep. David Scott (Florida A&M University), and Rep. Nikema Williams
25 (Talladega College), many members of the Georgia General Assembly, and countless other
26 influential leaders and innovators across all fields; and

27 WHEREAS, the economic impact of HBCUs in Georgia and across the country continues
28 to climb, generating more than \$1.3 billion in total impact to Georgia's economy alone; and

29 WHEREAS, HBCUs will continue to make an impact for generations to come by playing an
30 important role in access to education, research, and service in its empowerment of the next
31 generation of Black leaders.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize March 16, 2022 as Historically Black Colleges and Universities Heritage Day to
34 commend the vast contributions these institutions have made to the world.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
37 press.