

Senate Resolution 694

By: Senators Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th, Anderson of the 24th, Walker III of the 20th, Echols of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Department of Agriculture upon its 150th
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the years immediately following the American Civil War were turbulent for
4 agriculture in the State of Georgia, with farmlands in the state neglected, poorly tended, and
5 improperly improved; and

6 WHEREAS, scientific information concerning sound agricultural practices was not readily
7 available to the farmers of this era; and

8 WHEREAS, the State Horticultural Society, backed by many farmers, became interested in
9 and provided active support for the improvement of agricultural practices in the state through
10 the establishment of a state Department of Agriculture; and

11 WHEREAS, at this time, no state in the country had a legally constituted department of its
12 government concerned primarily with farming and agricultural problems; and

13 WHEREAS, recognizing the need for action to improve agricultural practices in the state,
14 the 82nd General Assembly of Georgia, at its 1874 regular session, enacted HB 438, which
15 created the Department of Agriculture; and

16 WHEREAS, the balloting on this bill, which was introduced by Edgar M. Butt of Marion
17 County, resulted in a tie vote, which was broken by Augustus O. Bacon, Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives; and

19 WHEREAS, this act was approved on February 28, 1874, by James M. Smith, Governor of
20 the State of Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, there have
22 been 17 commissioners: Thomas P. Janes, John T. Henderson, R. T. Nesbit, O. B. Stevens,
23 Thomas G. Hudson, J. J. Connor, James D. Price, J. J. Brown, Eugene Talmadge, George C.
24 Adams, Tom Linder, Columbus Roberts, Phil Campbell, Thomas T. Irvin, Gary W. Black,
25 and Tyler Harper; and

26 WHEREAS, through the dedication, determination, and ability of these commissioners and
27 the employees of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the farmers of Georgia have
28 received immeasurable assistance in developing agriculture into Georgia's most important
29 industry; and

30 WHEREAS, the prosperity of thousands of Georgia's families is a result, in large measure,
31 of the efforts of the Georgia Department of Agriculture; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the Georgia Department of Agriculture
33 be recognized on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its creation.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize and commend the Georgia Department of Agriculture upon the grand occasion of
36 the 150th anniversary of its creation and extend best wishes for continued service to the
37 farmers of this state.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
40 Department of Agriculture.