

House Resolution 1299

By: Representatives Byrd of the 20th, Reese of the 98th, England of the 108th, and Greene of the 149th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with the People's Republic of
2 China; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is a bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and China, and the
4 people of Georgia welcome opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels
5 including cultural, academic, and business; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Sonny Perdue will travel to China on a mission of peace and goodwill
7 to formally open an economic development office; and

8 WHEREAS, Atlanta and all of Georgia would be honored to be selected to serve as the home
9 of the next Consulate General of the People's Republic of China; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud that Georgia based companies such as the Coca-Cola
11 Company, United Parcel Service, Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, Inter-Continental Hotels,
12 John Portman & Associates, CNN, AJC International, Inc., GE Energy, Char-Broil,
13 Concurrent Computer Corporation, and Micrometrics have operations in China; and

14 WHEREAS, celebrating 30 years of successful Chinese economic reform since 1978,
15 Georgia is proud that a growing number of Chinese companies such as COSCO North
16 America, Kingwasong LLC, Yat Ming USA, Inc., Ecotech Machinery, Inc., SANY
17 AMERICA, General Protecht, and New West International, Inc. have operations in Georgia;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the China Governance and Development Program of the International Center
20 for Democratic Governance with the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia foster
21 strong ties between Georgia and China by providing governmental training and technical
22 assistance to visiting delegations of Chinese officials on an annual basis; and

1 WHEREAS, Kennesaw State University is home to the China Research Center, the
2 SINO-American Education Consortium, the Center for International Programs, and the
3 Chinese Proficiency Testing Center; and

4 WHEREAS, many other Georgia colleges and universities also have ties with China, among
5 them Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University,
6 Georgia State University, and Valdosta State University; and

7 WHEREAS, approximately 1,500 Chinese students study in Georgia universities, 140
8 Chinese faculty members work in Georgia's universities, and 331 students from Georgia have
9 participated in numerous study abroad and student exchange programs with Chinese
10 universities; and

11 WHEREAS, China is a top destination for Georgia exports, totaling over \$979 million with
12 top exports including paper, food products, minerals, ore, nonmetallic mineral products,
13 forestry products, textiles, and textile mill products; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia imports over \$8.2 billion from China through the Savannah Customs
15 District with top imports including industrial and electrical machinery, furniture, toys, games,
16 iron and steel products, and plastics; and

17 WHEREAS, two-way trade to and from China flowing through Georgia's ports of Atlanta,
18 Brunswick, and Savannah total over \$12 billion, ranking Georgia as the sixth largest port
19 in the United States for imports and exports with China and the second largest port on the
20 East Coast; and

21 WHEREAS, Savannah ranks sixth among U.S. container ports in Asian imports and ranks
22 second among U.S. East Coast ports in imports from China with 65 percent of all Asian
23 based cargo transiting into the U.S. South Atlantic moving through Savannah; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Ports Authority and the Shanghai International Port Group signed
25 an agreement to promote jointly all-water shipping routes and trade opportunities between
26 Shanghai and the Port of Savannah; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to the Georgia China Alliance, the Atlanta Chapter
28 of the National Association of Chinese Americans, The Chinese Business Association of

1 Atlanta, the Association of Chinese Professionals, the Hong Kong Association of Atlanta,
2 and the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce; and

3 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines won approval to operate a daily nonstop flight from Atlanta to
4 Shanghai which will have an economic impact of \$400 million on the Southeastern United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, the High Museum of Art Atlanta will host *The First Emperor - China's*
7 *Terracotta Army*, November 16 through April 26, 2009, and this once in a lifetime exhibition
8 includes more than 120 objects, some of which are new discoveries, and includes 23 life-size
9 figures of warriors, horses, and government officials, the largest grouping of these objects
10 China has ever loaned; and

11 WHEREAS, several Georgia cities have begun formal activity to finalize sister city
12 relationships with numerous cities in China; and

13 WHEREAS, the 2008 Olympic Games which will be hosted this year by China are creating
14 opportunities for Georgia companies similar to those created when Atlanta hosted the
15 Olympic Games in 1996.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
17 the members of this body hereby recognize the special friendship between Georgia and the
18 People's Republic of China and express our appreciation to her Excellency Qiao Hong, the
19 Consul General of China Houston Consulate, for her efforts to promote peace and grow
20 commercial, cultural, and educational ties between our two nations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to her Excellency Qiao Hong.