

By Senator Miller

18-2335-04

1                                   Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2           A resolution in support of the federal

3           initiative to establish a regional approach to

4           economic development in the Southeast.

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6           WHEREAS, several academic studies, including the

7   December 2001 Southeast Crescent Authority: A Proposal for

8   Economic Growth in the Southeastern United States conducted by

9   East Carolina University, and the January 2003 Study on

10   Persistent Poverty by the University of Georgia and the

11   Georgia Rural Development Council, among others, have shown

12   that there is a region in the Southeast that has been

13   persistently poor for decades, and

14           WHEREAS, this region is the poorest region of the

15   country, and

16           WHEREAS, past policies for breaking the cycle of

17   poverty in the region have failed, and different approaches

18   are needed, and

19           WHEREAS, all of the people of the 7-state region,

20   including Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North

21   Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia bear a tremendous

22   burden from the continuous cycle of poverty, and

23           WHEREAS, the region is economically disadvantaged as

24   compared with other regions in industry sectors when measured

25   by the production of goods and services per person, and

26           WHEREAS, the most highly distressed areas of the region

27   have a lower output of goods and services than either the

28   Appalachian Regional Commission or the Delta Regional

29   Authority counties, and

30           WHEREAS, these areas have an average household income

31   that is \$2,000 less per person than the counties in the

1 Appalachian Regional Commission or Delta Regional Authority,  
2 and a per capita income \$5,000 less than the national average,  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the economy of the rural areas and components  
5 of the urbanized South are at risk because they lack an able  
6 workforce and the tools with which to build wealth, and

7 WHEREAS, the economic situation in the region will  
8 continue to worsen unless the region gains the innate ability  
9 to produce and sustain wealth through the creation of goods  
10 and services in manufacturing, service, and agriculture, and

11 WHEREAS, critical gaps exist in education, health,  
12 housing, transportation, technology, and sewer and water  
13 infrastructure in the region, and

14 WHEREAS, despite its poverty, this region is not  
15 presently served by a federally supported initiative similar  
16 to the Appalachian Regional Commission, which has shown much  
17 success in reducing economic distress through support for  
18 local job-creation strategies and projects, and

19 WHEREAS, there is clear evidence of the need for a new  
20 partnership between the states and the Federal Government to  
21 break the cycle of poverty through targeted, strategic support  
22 for local job-creation activities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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24 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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26 That the Senate supports the creation of the SouthEast  
27 Crescent Authority, or a similar regional entity, as reflected  
28 in pending Congressional legislation.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body pledges to work  
30 to strengthen efforts in sharing information and to ensure

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1 that the full participation of all residents of this region in  
2 the workforce remains a priority.  
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