A RESOLUTION

1. Compensating Mark Jason Jones; and for other purposes.

2. WHEREAS, in the late evening hours of January 31, 1992, a man was gunned down on a street corner in Savannah, Georgia; and

3. WHEREAS, despite his continued proclamations of innocence, Mark Jason Jones was arrested and charged with this crime; and

4. WHEREAS, on November 19, 1992, Mark Jason Jones was convicted of malice murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime and was sentenced to life plus five years in prison; and

5. WHEREAS, this conviction was primarily based upon the testimony of a reluctant partial eyewitness who was unduly pressured to provide false testimony and identify Mark Jason Jones as one of the perpetrators and who subsequently recanted his trial testimony in full; and

6. WHEREAS, prior to trial, the criminal defense attorneys for Mr. Jones were never furnished with exculpatory evidence that established his innocence; and

H. R. 25
- 1 -
WHEREAS, on November 2, 2017, the Georgia Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, overturned the conviction of Mark Jason Jones after determining that the outcome of his trial would likely have been different if the exculpatory evidence had not been withheld from his defense team; and

WHEREAS, following the Supreme Court's decision, Mark Jason Jones was released on bond in December, 2017, after spending over 25 years in prison; and

WHEREAS, in July, 2018, a nolle prosequi was entered with respect to the indictment against Mark Jason Jones; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his wrongful arrest and conviction, Mark Jason Jones received an other than honorable discharge from the United States Army, was denied the honor of serving his country in the military, and was deprived of many benefits to which he would otherwise be entitled from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jason Jones has suffered loss of liberty, personal injury, lost wages, injury to reputation, emotional distress, and other damages as a result of his more than 25 years of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the conviction, incarceration, and subsequent loss of liberty and other damages suffered by Mark Jason Jones occurred through no fault or negligence on his part, and it is only fitting and proper that he be compensated for his losses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the Department of Administrative Services is authorized and directed to pay the sum of $1,000,000.00 to Mark Jason Jones as compensation as provided above. Said sum
shall be paid from funds appropriated to or available to the Department of Administrative
Services and shall be in full and complete satisfaction of all claims against the state arising
out of said occurrence and shall be paid subject to the provisions of this resolution. Said sum
shall be paid in the form of an annuity in equal monthly installments over a 20 year period
of time beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of $50,000.00. Upon the death
of Mark Jason Jones, all payments and all obligations of the state with respect to any and all
future payments with respect to the annuity shall continue to be made to his estate or heirs.