

House Resolution 1095

By: Representatives Greene of the 151st, Taylor of the 173rd, and Ehrhart of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Education and the Department of Public Health to
2 encourage all schools to participate in a school-located influenza vaccination program; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses, and the
5 best way to help prevent seasonal influenza is by being vaccinated each year; and

6 WHEREAS, every year in the United States on average, more than 200,000 people are
7 hospitalized from influenza related complications and about 36,000 people, mostly elderly,
8 die from influenza related causes; and

9 WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ACIP) recommended, effective July 1, 2008,
11 routine seasonal influenza vaccination for all children aged six months to 18 years; and

12 WHEREAS, children and young adults aged five to 19 years are three to four times more
13 likely to be infected with influenza than adults; and

14 WHEREAS, school-aged children are the population group most responsible for the
15 transmission of contagious respiratory viruses, including influenza; and

16 WHEREAS, the elderly are the most vulnerable population to suffer a severe illness from
17 influenza due to having a weaker immune system response to vaccinations; and

18 WHEREAS, school-located vaccination programs may be an effective way to vaccinate
19 children while reducing transmission and infection rates to the larger community and
20 reducing rates of school absenteeism due to children being infected with influenza; and

21 WHEREAS, increased focus on providing influenza vaccines to children targeted for
22 immunizations may assist efforts to build a sound foundation for future vaccination efforts;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, schools may be an effective infrastructure tool to improve pandemic planning
25 by identifying known and effective pandemic vaccination centers; and

26 WHEREAS, school-located programs may help facilitate mass immunization clinics and
27 build partnerships with public health teams in the event of a public health emergency, such
28 as a pandemic; and

29 WHEREAS, although experience has demonstrated the feasibility and success of
30 school-located influenza vaccination programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistics,
31 particularly involving the delivery of vaccines to children with private insurance coverage,
32 are issues with program sustainability.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Education and the Department of
35 Public Health to encourage all schools to participate in a school-located influenza vaccination
36 program.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 Georgia Department of Education and the Department of Public Health.