

House Resolution 1243

By: Representatives Williams of the 37th, Hutchinson of the 107th, Oliver of the 82nd, Gambill of the 15th, Dempsey of the 13th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 25, 2020, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide Georgia's youth with safe, challenging, and
4 engaging learning experiences that help them develop social, emotional, physical, and
5 academic skills; and

6 WHEREAS, more time spent in afterschool is associated with better work habits, improved
7 academic performance, better attitudes about school, improved grade point average, and
8 fewer school absences; and

9 WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families and build stronger communities
10 by ensuring children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends and involving
11 parents, community leaders, businessmen, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study from the Afterschool Alliance, approximately 16
14 percent of Georgia's school-aged youth are in afterschool programs, but nearly 600,000 more
15 of Georgia's youth would participate in an afterschool program if one was available in their
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, more than 315,000 of Georgia's youth are alone and unsupervised between the
18 hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs,
19 alcohol, cigarettes, and sex; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to preparing our youth for the jobs of tomorrow by
21 providing expanded learning opportunities that help youth gain hands-on experience and
22 learn to communicate, collaborate, and lead; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia state agencies, including the Georgia Departments of Education,
24 Human Services, Early Care and Learning, Behavioral Health and Developmental
25 Disabilities, and Juvenile Justice, as well as the Division of Family and Children Services,
26 play a critical role in supporting Georgia's youth through quality afterschool and summer
27 programming such as 21st Century Learning Centers, 4-H programs, Boys and Girls Clubs,
28 and YMCAs; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative, has
30 convened these organizations and afterschool providers from across the state for the third
31 annual Afterschool Day at the state capitol to encourage lawmakers to recognize the critical
32 role afterschool programs play in preparing Georgia's youth for success in college, career,
33 and life.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize February 25, 2020, as Afterschool Day at the state
36 capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make a copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
39 Statewide Afterschool Network.