

House Resolution 1775

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Burns of the 159th, Nix of the 69th, Martin of the 49th, Teasley of the 37th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending Representative Brooks P. Coleman, Jr., on the grand occasion
2 of his retirement from the Georgia House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Representative Brooks P. Coleman, Jr., District 97, was first elected to the
4 Georgia House of Representatives in 1992, and has faithfully, ably, and proudly served his
5 constituents, representing portions of Gwinnett County, for 26 years; and

6 WHEREAS, the well-educated representative is a graduate of Bass High School in Atlanta
7 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, a Masters in Education
8 degree, two Education Specialist degrees, and a doctorate in administration/curriculum; and

9 WHEREAS, during his time as an educator, Representative Coleman served as a teacher,
10 principal, director of curriculum, and assistant superintendent for the Gwinnett County Public
11 School System; and

12 WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, he has served as the
13 long-standing Chairman of the House Committee on Education, conducting committee
14 meetings with integrity, fairness, and wit; and

15 WHEREAS, he has been a champion for education and has authored and co-authored
16 legislation that provided support to low-performing schools, reformed benefits under the
17 Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, eliminated the Georgia High School Graduation
18 Test, revised teacher certification renewal rules, enacted the Student Health and Physical
19 Education Act to ensure Georgia's students are physically healthy, raised compensation for
20 math and science teachers in Georgia, and authorized the Public Education Innovation Fund
21 Foundation to receive private donations to be used for grants to public schools; and

22 WHEREAS, he has received numerous awards for his work in the legislature, including the
23 State School Superintendent's Impact Award and Legislator of the Year awards by

24 Communities in Schools, National Board of Certified Teachers, Georgia Association of
25 Educators, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, and Gwinnett County Public
26 School Counselors; and

27 WHEREAS, in recognition of his many contributions to education and to Gwinnett County,
28 one of his proudest honors was having the first STEAM (science, technology, engineering,
29 arts, and math) school in Gwinnett County named in his honor as Coleman Middle School
30 in Duluth on the site where Brooks Coleman started teaching in 1963 and where he had his
31 first principal's job; and

32 WHEREAS, Representative Coleman is an avid antique clock collector and restorer (and is
33 responsible for saving and restoring a valuable grandfather clock now in the Governor's
34 Office), a skilled auctioneer, a sought-after motivational speaker, and a Roy Rogers
35 enthusiast; and

36 WHEREAS, Representative Coleman and his beloved wife, Mary Claire Coleman, are the
37 proud parents of daughter, Amy Mock, who continues the family legacy in education as a
38 school teacher in Gwinnett County and who with her husband, Stephen Mock, are the parents
39 of Brooks Coleman's two grandchildren, Patrick and Theresa; and

40 WHEREAS, Representative Coleman is treasured by his colleagues in the House for his
41 knowledge and wit; his courtesy, fairness, and friendship; and his untiring devotion to
42 education; and

43 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this body pay tribute to a beloved
44 colleague and friend and commend him for his outstanding leadership and his many enduring
45 contributions and tireless work for the betterment of the State of Georgia and its citizens.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
47 the members of this body hereby join in honoring and commending Representative Brooks
48 P. Coleman, Jr., on the grand occasion of his retirement from the Georgia House of
49 Representatives.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
52 Representative Brooks P. Coleman, Jr.