

Senate Bill 553

By: Senator Halpern of the 39th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate the Sunday following Veterans Day each year
3 as "National Warrior Call Day" in Georgia; to provide for recognition of the tragically high
4 rate of suicides among service members and veterans; to encourage community outreach to
5 such persons; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
10 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "1-4-27.

12 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that:

13 (1) Many veterans are dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support
14 systems;

15 (2) Pandemics can lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating
16 mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain
17 injury;

18 (3) There is a tragically high rate of suicide among service members and veterans of the
19 United States military; and

20 (4) Many of the veterans who take their own lives have had little or no contact with the
21 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 (b) All residents of this state are encouraged to contact current service members and
23 veterans, inform them that their service is appreciated, and, if needed, connect such persons
24 to mental health or other support services.

25 (c) The Sunday following Veterans Day each year is designated as 'National Warrior Call
26 Day' in Georgia."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.