

Senate Resolution 102

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Sims of the 12th, Black of the 8th, Brass of the 28th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 7-11, 2019, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot
4 program that originally served 750 students and that now provides quality early education
5 experiences to more than half of the state's four-year-old children; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program has helped to prepare approximately 1.6 million of
7 Georgia's children for success in kindergarten and beyond; and

8 WHEREAS, children in Georgia's Pre-K program show significant gains across all learning
9 domains, regardless of differences in gender and income, and recently released findings from
10 the longitudinal study conducted by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
11 showed that these gains were sustained through the end of first grade; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program recognizes two outstanding educators, one from a
13 public school system and one from a private child care center, as Georgia's Pre-K Program
14 Teachers of the Year for 2018-2019; and

15 WHEREAS, the Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year are Becky Thomas-Haden from
16 Mulberry Creek Elementary in Cataula, Georgia, and Stephanie Westhafer from Georgia
17 Kids Academy in Hoschton, Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improving the quality of child care in
19 Georgia with more than 3,500 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality
20 improvement system for child care programs; and

21 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
22 generating \$4.7 billion of economic activity annually and providing approximately 68,000
23 jobs in the industry itself and 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

24 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000
25 children per year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers, including family
26 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
27 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

28 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will be hosting Georgia Pre-K Week for the ninth
29 year in a row during the first full week of October; and

30 WHEREAS, members of the Junior League of Atlanta, including president Carla C. Smith
31 and president-elect Andrea N. Smith, join in celebrating Georgia's Pre-K program; and

32 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia and the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy
33 will provide quality Pre-K books to legislators as a part of its commitment toward improving
34 early literacy in children throughout the state.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize October 7-11, 2019, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; thank the
37 hundreds of teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized Pre-K program;
38 and encourage parents, educators, community members, and business leaders to participate
39 in Georgia Pre-K Week and to support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early
40 education for all children in the State of Georgia.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for
43 Georgia's Children.