

Senate Resolution 484

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Setzler of the 37th, Rhett of the 33rd, Esteves of the 6th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Cobb County Sheriff's Office; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, as of January, 2024, the Cobb County Sheriff's Office will have earned its
3 "Triple Crown" rating by attaining accreditation from the top three law enforcement
4 credentialing authorities in the country; and

5 WHEREAS, when Sheriff Craig D. Owens, Sr., took office in November of 2020 he made
6 a commitment to the Cobb County Sheriff's office for it to become one of the top agencies
7 in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, this commitment to excellence included earning accreditations from CALEA,
9 ACA, and NCCHC; and

10 WHEREAS, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.,
11 (CALEA) is a credentialing authority based in the United States whose primary mission is
12 to accredit public safety agencies, namely law enforcement agencies, training academies,
13 communications centers, and campus public safety agencies, and which conducted an audit
14 of the sheriff's office in June, 2023, and the office received the accreditation in November,
15 2023; and

16 WHEREAS, the American Correctional Association (ACA; called the National Prison
17 Association before 1954) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental trade association and
18 accrediting body for the corrections industry, the oldest and largest such association in the
19 world. The organization was founded in 1870 and has a significant place in the history of
20 prison reform in the United States. The ACA conducted an audit of the sheriff's office on
21 November 1-3, 2023. There were 60 mandatory standards and the Cobb County Sheriff's
22 Office received a score of 100 percent. In addition, there were 323 nonmandatory standards
23 and after the audit the Cobb County Sheriff's received an overall score of 95.9 percent.
24 Sheriff Owens and the Cobb County Sheriff's Office Jail Commander and Accreditation
25 Team will be traveling to Maryland in Jan. 2024 to be awarded the ACA Accreditation; and

26 WHEREAS, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) is an
27 independent, nonprofit organization with the stated goal of improving the standard of care
28 in the field of correctional health care in the United States. With support from major national
29 organizations representing the fields of health, law, and corrections, the NCCHC is
30 committed to improving the quality of health care in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement
31 facilities. The Cobb County Sheriff's Office has held the NCCHC Medical Accreditation for
32 more than 20 years; and

33 WHEREAS, in November, 2023, the Sheriff's Office completed an audit to receive the
34 mental health accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care
35 (NCCHC) Mental Health, a first for the office, and will receive the Accreditation Certificate
36 in the latter part of January, 2024. Currently there are 12 other facilities, nationwide, that
37 hold the NCCHC Mental Health Accreditation and the Cobb County Sheriff's Office is proud
38 to say it will be the thirteenth. In addition, this will be the second agency, nationwide,
39 partnering with Wellpath that currently holds this particular accreditation; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this commitment to excellence be
41 recognized on behalf of the citizens of this state.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize and commend the Cobb County Sheriff's Office for earning its "Triple Crown."

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Cobb County
46 Sheriff's Office.