

Senate Resolution 683

By: Senators Black of the 8th, Burke of the 11th, Anderson of the 24th, Harrell of the 40th and Payne of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 16, 2020, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, hearing plays a critical role in communication and personal relationships,
4 overall health outcomes, psychological well-being, and safety; and

5 WHEREAS, hearing loss has been tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, and
6 isolation. It can be a symptom of an underlying medical condition, including, but not limited
7 to, infections, tumors, otosclerosis, and Meniere's disease and is typically irreversible; and

8 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Better Hearing Institute concluded that untreated
9 hearing loss has significant income ramifications, including negatively impacting household
10 income by up to \$12,000 annually and costing \$122 billion in lost earnings in the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, noise-induced hearing loss is a preventable and significant, though often
13 unrecognized, health problem among American adults and is a growing problem with
14 adolescents due to overamplification of personal listening devices; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications
16 Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults, 15 percent, report some trouble
17 hearing, and approximately 28.2 million American adults could benefit from using hearing
18 aids; and

19 WHEREAS, according to the NIDCD, fewer than 30 percent of adults aged 70 and older and
20 16 percent of adults aged 20 to 69 who experience hearing loss and who could benefit from
21 hearing aids have ever used them; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International
23 Hearing Society, is composed of hearing health care professionals, including hearing aid
24 specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and
25 assessment of hearing loss, rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related devices,
26 and counseling; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia Hearing Day, founded by the Georgia Society of Hearing
28 Professionals, is observed on March 16 to raise awareness of how to prevent deafness and
29 hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing care across the world; and

30 WHEREAS, the theme of Georgia Hearing Day 2020 is "Hearing the Future," and the focus
31 of this important day is to promote hearing loss prevention awareness and access for
32 individuals with hearing loss to necessary rehabilitation services and the communication
33 tools they require.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize March 16, 2020, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol to encourage the
36 citizens of Georgia to protect their hearing and seek the services of a licensed hearing health
37 care professional, such as a hearing aid specialist, audiologist, or otolaryngologist, for regular
38 hearing checks.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
41 press.