

Senate Resolution 895

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Burke of the 11th, Black of the 8th, Harper of the 7th, Sims of the 12th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the success of TifTuf bermudagrass and the work of Dr.
2 Wayne Hanna, Dr. Brian Schwartz, and the University of Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, in the State of Georgia, the highly acclaimed new bermudagrass variety called
4 TifTuf is taking the turfgrass industry by storm; and
- 5 WHEREAS, it was developed by Dr. Wayne Hanna and received rigorous scientific testing
6 by turfgrass breeder Dr. Brian Schwartz at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus; and
- 7 WHEREAS, field testing was conducted in Georgia and across the south, including Florida,
8 North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas; and
- 9 WHEREAS, after nearly 25 years of testing and development, TifTuf was jointly released
10 in 2016 by the University of Georgia and the USDA Agricultural Research Service; and
- 11 WHEREAS, no other bermudagrass ever released from this breeding program has accrued
12 more data to support its agronomic qualities; and
- 13 WHEREAS, TifTuf exhibits superior drought tolerance compared to older bermudagrass
14 varieties, using less water and staying green longer without irrigation because of its unique
15 physiological characteristics; and
- 16 WHEREAS, TifTuf uses 38 percent less water and retains 95 percent more green leaf tissue
17 during drought stress when compared to the highly popular Tifway variety; and
- 18 WHEREAS, TifTuf exhibits exceptional wear tolerance, quickly recovering from any
19 damage, which makes it a great choice for public spaces and sports fields; and

20 WHEREAS, it has successfully demonstrated its durability at Centennial Olympic Park in
21 Atlanta and the Great Waters Golf Course at Reynolds Lake Oconee, and for football fans,
22 it has performed beautifully at Williams Brice Stadium in Gainesville, Florida, and at Amon
23 Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas; and

24 WHEREAS, TifTuf has a very fine leaf texture and a vibrant green color coupled with
25 excellent cold tolerance, which allows it to stay green longer into the fall and green up faster
26 in the spring in comparison to other bermudagrass varieties; and

27 WHEREAS, TifTuf is Georgia bred and is currently available at numerous sod farms across
28 the state, making it Georgia grown.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend the success of TifTuf bermudagrass, the work of Dr. Wayne Hanna
31 and Dr. Brian Schwartz, and this achievement by the University of Georgia.

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