

Senate Resolution 373

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Marable of the 52nd, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Ragan of the 11th, Scott of the 36th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Professional Association of Georgia Educators; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Professional Association of Georgia Educators is the only nonunion,
3 professional education association for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and other
4 school personnel in Georgia, and in 1995, PAGE became the state's largest organization for
5 professional educators, and 92 percent of the association's more than 48,000 members are
6 teachers; and

7 WHEREAS, PAGE was founded in 1975 by a group of 70 educators who believed that a
8 professional educator focuses on what is best for children, works for positive results without
9 resorting to militant or adversarial actions, and values the right of every educator to choose
10 freely his or her professional affiliations without coercive control by national or state groups;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Christmas is executive vice president of PAGE and Dr. Becky
13 Whaley, a Murray County educator, is PAGE President for 2000-2001; and

14 WHEREAS, the PAGE Foundation annually sponsors programs of academic competition
15 and promotes careers in education through the following student organizations and
16 scholarships; and

17 WHEREAS, the STAR Program, Student and Teacher Achievement Recognition, annually
18 recognizes top Georgia students academically and the teachers who have contributed the
19 most to their academic achievement; and

20 WHEREAS, the foundation provides scholarships to paraprofessionals and teachers to assist
21 them in pursuing a teaching career or assist with graduate study, and the PAGE Foundation
22 has now awarded more than \$200,000.00 in scholarships; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia Academic Decathlon is an academic competition for high school
2 students in grades 9-12 who then compete at the national level. More than 700 students from
3 63 high schools competed in the most recent decathlon. The winning team represents
4 Georgia in the United States Academic Decathlon; and

5 WHEREAS, the Academic Bowl competition challenges more than 1,400 sixth, seventh, and
6 eighth grade students from 75 school systems around the state; and

7 WHEREAS, more than 4,000 students in middle and high school, interested in exploring
8 teaching careers, are members of Future Georgia Educator chapters in Georgia schools; and

9 WHEREAS, SPAGE, the Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators, is an
10 organization of college students preparing to become teachers. Currently SPAGE has more
11 than 5,500 such student members in colleges of education throughout Georgia.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
13 commend the Professional Association of Georgia Educators for its many contributions to
14 education in this state.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
16 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Becky Whaley, President of the
17 Professional Association of Georgia Educators.