

Senate Resolution 168

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Gillis of the 20th, Starr of the 44th and Cheeks of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Youth Assembly and Junior Youth Assembly programs of the State YMCA
2 of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, every year, more than 500 high school students and 300 middle school students
4 from across Georgia converge upon Atlanta to participate in the annual sessions of the State
5 YMCA of Georgia's Youth Assembly and Junior Youth Assembly programs; and

6 WHEREAS, at these annual sessions, the students debate bills which they have researched
7 and prepared before committees of their peers and on the floors of the Youth Assembly and
8 Junior Youth Assembly House and Senate; student lobbyists present arguments in favor of
9 and against the mock legislation; student lawyers and judges argue the validity of previously
10 passed laws; and student reporters, photographers, and editors prepare and publish a
11 newspaper covering all of these events; and

12 WHEREAS, these annual sessions of the State YMCA Youth Assembly and Junior Youth
13 Assembly bring to life the lessons taught in civics courses in classrooms throughout Georgia
14 and reinforce to the students the important principle that democracy is not a spectator sport;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Youth Assembly and Junior Youth Assembly programs also help
17 participants develop and enhance the valuable life skills of thinking analytically, preparing
18 persuasive arguments, presenting those arguments to a large public audience, negotiating and
19 reaching consensus on difficult issues, and the basic task of showing up prepared at an
20 appointed time and place; and

21 WHEREAS, the participants of the 2002 session of Youth Assembly elected the following
22 outstanding young people to preside over the 2003 sessions of Youth Assembly and Junior
23 Youth Assembly: Youth Governor, Ellis Washington, Tifton; Chief Justice, Allie Thomas,
24 Gainesville; Lt. Governor, A. J. Sanders, Baconton; President Pro Tem., Ashton Bacon,

1 Dudley; Secretary of the Senate, Melissa Moss, Alpharetta; Senate Floor Leader, Aqueshia
2 Burns, Decatur; Senate Doorkeeper, Wil Wood, Alapaha; Speaker of the House, Matthew
3 Holland, Acworth; Speaker Pro Tem., Jonathan Oliver, Conyers; Clerk of the House, Beth
4 Greer, Sycamore; and House Floor Leader, Jessica Pitchford; and

5 WHEREAS, the members of this body welcome the participants of Youth Assembly and
6 Junior Youth Assembly to the capitol and Atlanta for their 2003 sessions.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
8 recognize and heartily commend the student participants and leaders of Youth Assembly and
9 Junior Youth Assembly for their hard work and for their interest in upholding the democratic
10 process of governing.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body also recognize and heartily
12 commend the State YMCA of Georgia, its supporters, and the adult advisors of the "Y" clubs
13 throughout this state for their hard work and dedication throughout the year which makes
14 possible the annual sessions of Youth Assembly and Junior Youth Assembly.

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 the State YMCA of Georgia.