

Senate Resolution 962

By: Senators Chance of the 16th, Rogers of the 21st, Williams of the 19th, Harbison of the 15th, Douglas of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing NBA Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins as Georgia's Diabetes Ambassador;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, diabetes is a chronic disease caused by the inability of the pancreas to produce
4 insulin or to use the insulin produced in the proper way; and

5 WHEREAS, untreated and poorly managed, diabetes has been medically proven to lead to
6 blindness, kidney failure, amputation, heart attack, and stroke and is the sixth leading cause
7 of death in the United States, responsible for a similar number of deaths each year as
8 HIV/AIDS; and

9 WHEREAS, in Georgia, the number of people living with diabetes has continued to grow by
10 20 percent over five years to currently more than 715,000 people diagnosed with diabetes
11 and another 214,000 people undiagnosed but susceptible to the disease, commonly known
12 as pre-diabetes; and

13 WHEREAS, without aggressive societal action, the number of people living with diabetes
14 in Georgia will more than double to 1,697,000 people in the next 20 years, cutting life short
15 for these people by 10-20 years; and

16 WHEREAS, without aggressive societal action, the economic burden of diabetes on the State
17 of Georgia is expected to grow from \$5 billion each year to nearly \$12 billion in the next 20
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, a Diabetes Ambassador is an individual who is active in the local health
20 community, is personally affected by diabetes, has state-wide prominence and name
21 recognition, and is an effective diabetes community advocate and liaison between state health
22 officials and the greater community; and

23 WHEREAS, Dominique Wilkins was diagnosed with diabetes almost ten years ago and
24 works with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; he is a respected, notable member
25 of his community, a graduate of the University of Georgia and a former Atlanta Hawks
26 player who has been inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame,
27 and the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame; and

28 WHEREAS, Dominique Wilkins possesses the requisite qualifications to be a successful
29 Diabetes Ambassador, and his advocacy in the area of diabetes is worthy of recognition.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 recognize NBA Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins as Georgia's Diabetes Ambassador.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Dominique Wilkins and the Georgia
34 Department of Human Services.