

House Bill 126

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st, Dutton of the 166th, Cooke of the 18th, Harden of the 28th, Allison of the 8th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate the nineteenth day of April in each year as
3 "Patriots Day" in Georgia; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 WHEREAS, April 19, 1775, marked a significant day in the history and founding of our
8 great nation; and

9 WHEREAS, on this date, British regular troops assembled with the intent of confiscating the
10 local militia's arms in the town of Concord, Massachusetts; and

11 WHEREAS, in the early morning hours a call to arms was sounded by Paul Revere, William
12 Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott, by riding on horseback through the countryside and
13 warning of this imminent act of suppression; and

14 WHEREAS, minutemen, militia, and colonists responded to this alarm by assembling at the
15 Village Green in Lexington and at the North Bridge in Concord to resist the advance of the
16 British; and

17 WHEREAS, the ensuing engagement led to the "Shot heard 'round the world," by determined
18 militia, and news of these events led to a galvanization of public opinion in favor of the
19 American Colonies gaining independence from Great Britain; and

20 WHEREAS, three years later, on April 19, 1778, Colonel Samuel Elbert, commanding three
21 Georgia Navy galleys, *Lee*, *Washington*, and *Bulloch*, encountered three British ships in the
22 Frederica River near St. Simons Island; and

23 WHEREAS, after five hours of naval action, the British ships were captured by Colonel
24 Elbert and the Georgia Navy, a victory which boosted the morale of all Georgia patriots and
25 caused the British to delay their invasion of Georgia by more than eight months; and

26 WHEREAS, Patriots Day serves to remind citizens of our Revolution and the sacrifices
27 endured during the years of struggle for American independence.

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
30 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

31 "1-4-21.

32 The nineteenth day of April in each year is designated as 'Patriots Day' in Georgia in
33 commemoration of the War of the American Revolution and the struggle for
34 independence."

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.