

House Resolution 497

By: Representatives Purcell of the 159th, Coleman of the 97th, Casas of the 103rd, Ashe of the 56th, Benfield of the 85th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging local school systems and schools in Georgia to adopt policies that prohibit the use of
2 tobacco on campus and at school facilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, 109 of 180 local school systems currently have policies in place which prohibit
4 the use of tobacco at school facilities by students and staff; and

5 WHEREAS, these school systems include instruction on the consequences of using tobacco
6 as part of their curriculum; and

7 WHEREAS, educators across this state serve as role models for their students and it is
8 imperative that they abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the vicinity of
9 students; and

10 WHEREAS, research has shown that smoking harms nearly every organ in the body; and

11 WHEREAS, smoking and tobacco use are known to cause many diseases and reduce the
12 health of tobacco users in general; and

13 WHEREAS, more deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from HIV,
14 illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined; and

15 WHEREAS, smoking causes 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80 percent of
16 all lung cancer deaths in women; and

17 WHEREAS, smoking is associated with numerous adverse health effects and smokeless
18 tobacco users are at heightened risk for oral cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, there are adverse effects for both smokers and those exposed to second hand
20 smoking; and

21 WHEREAS, high school students who use tobacco are more likely to use other drugs at some
22 point.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body urge local schools and local school systems to establish policies
25 that prohibit the use of tobacco products on their campuses and in their facilities and to create
26 educational curriculums to inform students of the risks of tobacco use.