

Senate Resolution 482

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, James of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgia's Pre-K Program; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program is administered from Bright from the Start and is
3 designed to develop and support quality pre-k experiences for four year old children; and

4 WHEREAS, now in its 18th year, Georgia's Pre-K Program is nationally recognized as a
5 universal, voluntary program that increases school readiness and improves overall school
6 performance; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program currently serves over 84,000 children across this state
8 and is available in all 159 Georgia counties; and

9 WHEREAS, a public-private partnership, Georgia's Pre-K Program operates both public and
10 private sites throughout Georgia and provides participants with 36 weeks of instruction per
11 year at six and one-half hours per day; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program employs only the best and brightest, with lead
13 teachers certified in early childhood education and holding bachelor's degrees in early
14 childhood and assistant teachers holding child development associate credentials or higher;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, funded through the Georgia Lottery for Education, Georgia's Pre-K Program
17 is awarded annual competitive grants through Bright from the Start; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program has been recognized with numerous honors and
19 accolades, including a Governor's Customer Service Award, an A rating from the Center for
20 Improvement of Early Reading Achievement for quality instruction in early childhood
21 literacy and math, and a State Innovation Award from the Education Commission of the
22 States; and

23 WHEREAS, the National Institute for Early Education Research awarded Georgia's Pre-K
24 Program with quality ratings in the areas of teacher specialized training, teacher in-service
25 requirement, maximum class size, staff to child ratios, screen/referral requirements, family
26 support service requirements, and meal requirements; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1997, Georgia's Pre-K Program was recognized as the most comprehensive
28 and unique preschool initiative in the nation with the prestigious Innovations in American
29 Government Award from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of
30 Government; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding work of Georgia's Pre-K
32 Program and its numerous contributions to the young students of this state be appropriately
33 recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize Georgia's Pre-K Program for the many young lives it has improved throughout this
36 state and commend the program's standards for quality education and development.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Georgia's Pre-K Program.