

Senate Resolution 1178

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 14, 2014, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, atrial fibrillation
4 (AF) is the most common type of arrhythmia (an abnormal heart rhythm); and

5 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias occur when the electrical activity of the
6 heart is disorganized, causing an irregular heartbeat that disrupts the flow of blood through
7 the heart; and

8 WHEREAS, nonvalvular atrial fibrillation, which makes up approximately 95 percent of AF,
9 is estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, risk factors for atrial fibrillation include high blood pressure, heart failure,
11 diabetes, advanced age, hyperthyroidism, and heart disease; and

12 WHEREAS, those with atrial fibrillation have a risk of stroke that is five times greater than
13 those without, and 15 to 20 percent of all people who have strokes also have atrial
14 fibrillation; and

15 WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and Georgia,
16 resulting in one person in this country dying from stroke every four minutes, and nearly
17 4,000 Georgians dying of stroke in 2010; and

18 WHEREAS, modifiable lifestyle behaviors that can lead to a stroke include physical
19 inactivity, tobacco use, poor diet, and heavy alcohol consumption; and

20 WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability and stroke survivors are more
21 likely to become disabled and experience difficulties with daily living and activities; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the National Stroke Association, African Americans are twice as
23 likely to die from stroke as Caucasians and the rate of first strokes in African Americans is
24 almost double that of Caucasians; and

25 WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death among Hispanics, and studies
26 indicate that Hispanics have a higher rate of hemorrhagic strokes at a younger age than
27 Caucasians; and

28 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Community Health, the total cost of
29 stroke in Georgia in 2007 was \$1.7 billion, which includes direct health care costs and lost
30 productivity from morbidity and mortality; and

31 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation is a serious health issue deserving attention from state health
32 officials; an increase in community awareness of atrial fibrillation and its complications can
33 improve the likelihood that people with atrial fibrillation will seek the treatment they need
34 before suffering from devastating consequences.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body encourages its
36 members and their constituents to partner with the state health department, medical
37 communities, and community-based organizations to raise awareness about the risks posed
38 by atrial fibrillation and stroke, as well as the availability of treatment options, and recognize
39 May 14, 2014, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.