

Senate Resolution 723

By: Senators James of the 35th, Butler of the 55th, Sims of the 12th, Jones II of the 22nd, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging local boards of education, nonpublic elementary and secondary schools,
2 governing bodies of charter schools, and public recreation facilities to guarantee certain
3 safety rights to youth athletes in sport competition; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known to be in honor of Tre Tre (De'Antre Gregory)
5 Turman; and

6 WHEREAS, thousands of young people each year participate in athletics in Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, youth athletes undergo medical treatment and hospitalizations for injuries
8 sustained while participating in organized athletic activities and related competition,
9 including for the most serious injuries, such as brain and spinal cord injuries; and

10 WHEREAS, all institutions, organizations, and public recreation authorities that organize
11 youth athletics can improve the health and safety of our youth athletes through the
12 employment of certain principles.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
14 join together to encourage all institutions, organizations, and public recreation authorities that
15 organize youth athletics to guarantee the following rights to youth athletes:

16 (1) Youth athletes have the right to be coached by individuals who are well trained in
17 sport-specified safety and to be monitored by athletic health care team members.

18 (2) Youth athletes have the right to quality, regular pre-participation examinations, and
19 each athlete has the right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management
20 plan.

21 (3) Youth athletes have the right to participate in sporting activities on safe, clean
22 playing surfaces in both indoor and outdoor facilities.

23 (4) Youth athletes have the right to utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted
24 appropriately, and routinely maintained, and to appropriate personnel trained in proper
25 removal of equipment in case of injury.

26 (5) Youth athletes have the right to participate safely in all environmental conditions
27 where play follows approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, including
28 but not limited to a hydration plan.

29 (6) Youth athletes have the right to a safe playing environment with venue-specific
30 emergency action plans that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly
31 rehearsed with local emergency personnel.

32 (7) Youth athletes have the right to privacy of health information and proper referral for
33 medical, psychosocial, and nutritional counseling.

34 (8) Youth athletes have the right to participate in a culture that finds "playing through
35 pain" unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment.

36 (9) Youth athletes have the right to immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions
37 made by qualified sports medicine professionals.

38 (10) Youth athletes have the right, along with their parents, to the latest information
39 about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including but
40 not limited to access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
43 Education, the Georgia High School Association, the Association County Commissioners of
44 Georgia, and the Georgia Municipal Association.