

Senate Resolution 855

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, Bethel of the 54th, Williams of the 19th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Stone of the 23rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 29, 2016, as REACH Georgia Day at the state capitol and
2 commending the REACH Georgia program coordinators, mentors, academic coaches, and
3 supporters for their dedicated service to the lives of our REACH Scholars; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia is a
6 public-private mentorship and needs based scholarship program designed to promote
7 academic success and increase access to, and completion of, postsecondary education; and

8 WHEREAS, education is a crucial asset for every individual and is a strong determinant of
9 overall success; by the year 2020, projections estimate that 60 percent of jobs in Georgia will
10 require a college certificate or degree, making programs like REACH Georgia increasingly
11 critical to prepare our youth so that they have the opportunity to not only attend college but
12 also obtain a credential upon completion; and

13 WHEREAS, upon completion of high school, REACH Georgia awards program participants,
14 REACH Scholars, a scholarship of up to \$10,000, \$2,500 each year for up to four years, to
15 be used at a HOPE-eligible two-year or four-year institution; and

16 WHEREAS, many colleges have pledged to match or double-match the scholarship,
17 providing scholars additional resources for their college education and further ensuring
18 success; and

19 WHEREAS, members of civic, corporate, and faith based communities throughout the state
20 are coming together to volunteer through REACH Georgia by funding scholarships, serving
21 as mentors and tutors, and providing college and career counseling to REACH Scholars; and

22 WHEREAS, four years after the launch as a key component of the Complete College
23 Georgia Initiative, 335 students in 41 school districts are participating in the REACH Georgia
24 program; and

25 WHEREAS, these students now find themselves better prepared to graduate high school,
26 enroll in a postsecondary institution, and return as successful citizens to our communities and
27 work force.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize February 29, 2016, as REACH Georgia Day at the state capitol and commend the
30 REACH Georgia program coordinators, mentors, academic coaches, and supporters for their
31 dedicated service to the lives of our REACH Scholars.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to REACH Georgia.