

House Resolution 1255

By: Representative Dollar of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Georgia High School Fencing League and its Member Teams; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2003, Roswell High School was the first public school in Georgia to offer
4 fencing as a high school club sport and provided the foundation for the origin of the Georgia
5 High School Fencing League the following year; and

6 WHEREAS, the Georgia High School Fencing League was established in 2004 and chartered
7 in 2005 to establish the sport of fencing in Georgia high schools and to achieve the goal of
8 becoming a GHSA sanctioned sport; and

9 WHEREAS, with that focus, it has provided organization, support, and guidance to high
10 schools that wish to develop a fencing program, which gives their students the opportunity
11 to participate in a classical sport that teaches mental patience and decisiveness, as well as
12 demanding physical quickness and endurance; and

13 WHEREAS, under the leadership of its founders, Chairman Terry White and Vice Chair
14 Kathy Vail, the Georgia High School Fencing League has grown from three teams in 2005
15 to 20 high schools and more than 400 fencers; and

16 WHEREAS, USA Fencing, the sport's national governing body, recognizes the Georgia High
17 School Fencing League as the fastest growing high school fencing league in the United States
18 and the 3rd largest such league in the United States, after New York and New Jersey; and

19 WHEREAS, the Pope High School Fencing Club became a member of the Georgia High
20 School Fencing League in the 2007-2008 season as the 8th team in the league, and with more
21 than 50 members this season, the Pope High School Fencing Club is currently the largest
22 team in the Georgia High School Fencing League; and

23 WHEREAS, in the past four seasons, the Pope High School men have won one Individual
24 Championship and two Team Championships, and the Pope High School women have won
25 all four Individual Championships and two Team Championships and are currently in 1st
26 place for the 2015-2016 season; and

27 WHEREAS, Ana Cristian, Erin Maurer, and Sydney Higginbotham are currently in 1st
28 through 3rd place, respectively, among women in the Georgia High School Fencing League;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the Pope High School Fencing Club's top ranked female fencer, Ana Cristian,
31 was selected to serve as a House Page for Representative Matt Dollar of the 45th District for
32 the 153rd Georgia General Assembly; and

33 WHEREAS, Luben Jelezarov (Class of 2014) set the Georgia High School Fencing League
34 record for the most points earned in a season with 592 points in the 2013-2014 season; and

35 WHEREAS, Chloe Bowman (Class of 2012) won Pope's first Individual Championship
36 medal, taking bronze in the 2010-2011 season; and

37 WHEREAS, Katie Van Riper (Class of 2014) won three Individual Championships, was a
38 member of two winners of the Team Championship, and is currently on a fencing scholarship
39 at Northwestern University; and

40 WHEREAS, the newest team of the Georgia High School Fencing League, B.E.S.T.
41 Academy at the Benjamin S. Carson Center, joined the league this year and represents a
42 significant expansion into Atlanta Public Schools, which provides the opportunity to enrich
43 the educational experiences of their students through the sport of fencing; and

44 WHEREAS, two of the fencers from B.E.S.T. Academy, Jawan Johnson and Gs3 Harris,
45 were selected to serve as Senate Pages for Senator Horacena Tate of District 38 for the 2016
46 Georgia High School Fencing League Day at the state capitol; and

47 WHEREAS, the high schools that participate in the Georgia High School Fencing League
48 are Alpharetta, B.E.S.T. Academy, Cambridge, Campbell, Centennial, Chattahoochee,
49 Duluth, Dunwoody, Fellowship, Johns Creek, Lambert, Lassiter, Milton, Northview, North
50 Springs, Oak Mountain Academy, Pinecrest, Pope, Roswell, and South Forsyth.

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
52 the members of this body express their support for the continued growth of the sport of
53 fencing among Georgia high schools and for fencing to be recognized as a GHSA sanctioned
54 activity because of the discipline and mental and physical benefits this classical sport
55 provides to the development of student participants.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
57 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
58 Georgia High School Fencing League.