

Senate Resolution 1012

By: Senators James of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Brain Injury Association of Georgia; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Brain Injury Association of Georgia is a state-wide nonprofit organization
3 dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with brain injuries and their families
4 through education, awareness, advocacy, prevention, and support services; and

5 WHEREAS, brain injury is recognized as a serious national public health epidemic, as stated
6 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

7 WHEREAS, more than 3.5 million children and adults in the United States sustain an
8 acquired brain injury each year, and more than 2.5 million sustain traumatic brain injuries;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, as medical treatment, safety, and trauma care advance, more people survive
11 brain injuries than ever before, but they still face a lifetime of physical, behavioral,
12 emotional, and cognitive impairments, requiring ongoing support services; and

13 WHEREAS, the association has served as the voice of Georgia's brain injury community
14 since 1982 and remains the only organization of its kind in this state; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Concussion Coalition was founded in 2011 to serve as a
16 collaborative organization that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders across the
17 State of Georgia that are working together to improve the safety of youth athletics,
18 specifically related to sports concussions; and

19 WHEREAS, as concussion occurrence in youth sports has grown to epidemic proportions,
20 the Brain Injury Association of Georgia has developed specialized programs through the
21 Georgia Concussion Coalition to directly address the need for greater concussion awareness
22 and prevention; and

23 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines concussion as a
24 traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that
25 causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth; this sudden movement can cause
26 the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, stretching and damaging the brain cells and
27 creating chemical changes in the brain; and

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia Concussion Coalition's mission is to advocate for strong injury
29 prevention programs and provide awareness and education on the recognition, diagnosis, and
30 proper care and management of sports induced brain injuries; and

31 WHEREAS, the coalition's program and services include educational programs for sports
32 leagues, athletes, coaches, and parents; continuing education for athletic trainers and
33 clinicians; assistance to athletic associations on crafting sound concussion policies and
34 procedures based on best practices; support to educators to formulate strong Return to Learn
35 protocols; community events promoting awareness and prevention; an information and
36 resource help line for families coping with injury; support groups for families dealing with
37 long-term concussion recovery; a Speakers Bureau composed of subject matter experts; and
38 advocacy for continued improvements in legislation, policies, prevention, treatments, and
39 research; and

40 WHEREAS, March has been designated as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the United
41 States, with the motto "Not Alone in Brain Injury," to encourage public awareness on the
42 extent, causes, consequences, treatment, and prevention of brain injuries.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 recognize the Brain Injury Association of Georgia for its dedicated service to the community
45 and state.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Brain Injury
48 Association of Georgia.