

House Resolution 1708

By: Representative Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Representative Bill Hitchens, recipient of the Peace Officers' Association of  
2 Georgia's 2015 Arthur Hutchins Memorial Award for Meritorious Service; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Representative Bill Hitchens has been an active member of the Peace Officers'  
5 Association of Georgia (POAG) since 1969 and has served in many capacities up to and  
6 including state president for two years, during which his effective leadership skills were  
7 evident during potentially detrimental circumstances; and

8 WHEREAS, while president, he inherited a longstanding issue with the Internal Revenue  
9 Service concerning taxes on some magazine ads for which the magazine publisher had  
10 already paid taxes, and President Hitchens realized that he either had to go to court or the  
11 amount the POAG owed would bankrupt the organization; and

12 WHEREAS, after a yearlong challenge, the POAG prevailed in court and the funds were  
13 ordered to be returned to them, and without his steadfast determination to resolve this issue,  
14 POAG would have ceased to exist years ago; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Hitchens continues to support the entire law enforcement  
16 profession, as evidenced by his sponsorship of House Bill 591, which if passed will provide  
17 much needed revenue for the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; and

18 WHEREAS, he has tirelessly and courageously been an advocate, not only for the over 7,000  
19 members of the POAG, but for the entire law enforcement profession; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Hitchens has exemplified the utmost qualities of dedication,  
21 leadership, ethics, and service.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body commend Representative Bill Hitchens, recipient of the Peace  
24 Officers' Association of Georgia's 2015 Arthur Hutchins Memorial Award for Meritorious  
25 Service, and for his many years of dedicated service to the State of Georgia.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
28 Representative Bill Hitchens.