

House Resolution 371

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Belton of the 112th, Golick of the 40th, Harrell of the 106th, Holcomb of the 81st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 21, 2017, as Catholic Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began with missionaries in the 16th Century
3 when Franciscan friars maintained a network of mission stations that stretched from
4 St. Augustine to the Savannah River; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established on July 3, 1850, with
6 its territory extending over the entire State of Georgia and a large part of Florida, including
7 a total of approximately 5,000 Catholics; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern 69
9 counties of the state, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese,
11 becoming the center of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the States of Georgia,
12 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Catholic Church in Georgia continues to serve all 159 counties of the State
14 of Georgia with a Catholic population of over one million members in 175 parishes, missions
15 and mission stations as well as 12 Catholic high schools and 35 elementary schools, six
16 Catholic health care facilities, Catholic charities centers, and other charitable services, all of
17 which are available to all persons without discrimination; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their
19 institutions and their people, continued to reach out in service to all people in Georgia,
20 whether newcomers or long-established families, from all parts of the world, including
21 refugees, immigrants, and those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for
24 their commitment to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize
25 February 21, 2017, as Catholic Day at the state capitol.

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 Most
28 Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, and to Most Reverend
29 Gregory J. Hartmayer, Bishop of Savannah.