

House Resolution 768

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Parrish of the 158th, Abrams of the 89th, and Hatchett of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing May 17, 2017, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol; and for other
- 2 purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, atrial fibrillation
- 4 is a common type of arrhythmia, an abnormal heart rhythm; and

- 5 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias occur when the electrical activity of the
- 6 heart is disorganized, causing an irregular heartbeat that disrupts the flow of blood through
- 7 the heart; and

- 8 WHEREAS, nonvalvular atrial fibrillation, which makes up approximately 95 percent of
- 9 atrial fibrillation, is estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States; and

- 10 WHEREAS, risk factors for atrial fibrillation include high blood pressure, heart failure,
- 11 diabetes, advanced age, hyperthyroidism, and heart disease; and

- 12 WHEREAS, those with atrial fibrillation have a risk of stroke that is five times greater than
- 13 those without, and 15 to 20 percent of all people who have strokes also have atrial
- 14 fibrillation; and

- 15 WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and in Georgia,
- 16 resulting in one person in this country dying from stroke every four minutes and nearly 3,700
- 17 Georgians dying from stroke in 2012; and

- 18 WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability, and stroke survivors are more
- 19 likely to become disabled and experience difficulties with daily living and activities; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the National Stroke Association, African Americans are twice as
21 likely to die from stroke as Caucasians, and the rate of first strokes in African Americans is
22 almost double that of Caucasians; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, in 2014 the
24 stroke-related health care cost in Georgia was \$940 million; and

25 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation is a serious health issue deserving attention from state health
26 officials; an increase in community awareness of atrial fibrillation and its complications can
27 improve the likelihood that people with atrial fibrillation will seek the treatment they need
28 before suffering from devastating consequences.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 this body encourages its members and their constituents to partner with the state health
31 department, medical communities, and community-based organizations to raise awareness
32 about the risks posed by atrial fibrillation and stroke, as well as the availability of treatment
33 options, and recognize May 17, 2017, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
36 public and the press.