

## Senate Resolution 667

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Millar of the 40th, Shafer of the 48th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Williams of the 39th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Atlanta United for its contributions to the State of Georgia; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, soccer in the United States has grown exponentially over the years, resulting  
4 in Atlanta United being selected by Major League Soccer (MLS) as an expansion franchise  
5 on April 16, 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Atlanta United had their first season game on Sunday, March 5, 2017, and their  
7 first home game at a sold-out Bobby Dodd Stadium on Saturday, March 18, 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, Atlanta United has four supporters groups, Terminus Legion, Footie Mob, The  
9 Faction, and Resurgence; and

10 WHEREAS, Atlanta United is the first expansion team to make the MLS Cup playoffs since  
11 2009 and only the fourth in the history of the league; and

12 WHEREAS, Atlanta United has packed the stands, first in the oldest stadium in college  
13 football, Bobby Dodd Stadium, and now in the newest stadium for actual football,  
14 Mercedes-Benz Stadium; and

15 WHEREAS, the team has set records for total regular season attendance, highest average  
16 attendance, twice for the highest regular season single match attendance, and the highest  
17 attendance for an MLS Cup Playoff game, leading club president Darren Eales to name  
18 Number 17, the jersey number given to all United fans, this year's Atlanta United Most  
19 Valuable Player; and

20 WHEREAS, Darren Eales has assembled a team of exciting young players, led by their  
21 coach, Tata, whose style of play has kept the fans on their feet; and

22 WHEREAS, club president Darren Eales, because of his strong leadership and vision, was  
23 named the 2017 Doug Hamilton Executive of the Year by MLS; and

24 WHEREAS, as this magnificent team earned its well-deserved reputation for excellence by  
25 performing with courage and precision over months of training and competition, it is  
26 abundantly proper to call them champions.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 recognize Atlanta United, the team, the owner, the management, and the fans, for their  
29 contributions to the State of Georgia and hereby name them the Kings of the South.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Atlanta United.