

Senate Resolution 727

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Sims of the 12th, Millar of the 40th, Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 1-5, 2018, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 school year marks the 25th anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K
4 program which, since its beginning, has helped to prepare approximately 1.6 million of
5 Georgia's children for success in kindergarten and beyond; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot
7 program that originally served 750 students that now provides quality early education
8 experiences to more than half of the state's four-year-old children; and

9 WHEREAS, children in Georgia's Pre-K program show significant gains across all learning
10 domains, regardless of differences in gender and income, and recently released findings from
11 the longitudinal study conducted by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
12 showed that these gains were sustained through the end of first grade; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators, one from a
14 public school system and one from a private child care center, as Georgia's Pre-K Program
15 Teachers of the Year for 2017-2018; and

16 WHEREAS, the Pre-K Teachers of the Year are Jodi McNamara from Kids R Kids #49 in
17 Lawrenceville and Nathan Leatherwood from Calhoun Pre-K; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improving the quality of child care in
19 Georgia, with over 3,100 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality
20 improvement system for child care programs; and

21 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
22 generating \$4.7 billion of economic activity annually and providing approximately 68,000
23 jobs in the industry itself and 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

24 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 337,000
25 children per year in approximately 6,200 early care and education centers, including family
26 child care homes, group child care homes, Pre-K programs, military family child care homes,
27 Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

28 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children will be hosting Georgia Pre-K Week for the
29 eighth year in a row during the first full week of October; and

30 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will release the official
31 Pre-K book, *Behind the Little Red Door*, authored by Coy Bowles of the Zac Brown Band
32 and illustrated by Joanna Davidovich, in honor of the 25th anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K
33 program; and

34 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia and the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy
35 will provide quality Pre-K books to legislators as a part of its commitment toward improving
36 early literacy in children throughout the state.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 recognize October 1-5, 2018, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for
41 Georgia's Children.