

House Resolution 1370

By: Representatives Efration of the 104th, Dreyer of the 59th, Golick of the 40th, Willard of the 51st, Corbett of the 174th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Honorable Michael P. Boggs for his tenure on the Georgia
2 Council on Criminal Justice Reform; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's prison population had more than doubled from 1990 to 2011, with
4 state spending approaching \$1 billion annually on corrections and a high recidivism rate in
5 which one in three return to prison within three years of release; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2011, the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform was created, through
7 legislation sponsored by Representative Jay Neal, to use evidence based research and
8 recommend policies which would save money on corrections, lower recidivism rates, and
9 make communities safer throughout the State of Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Legislature, with nearly unanimous bipartisan support, has adopted
11 most of the recommendations made by the Council; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's prison population has been reduced to less than 53,000, the jail
13 backlog eliminated, and the number of individuals entering prison reduced by almost 4,000
14 annually; and

15 WHEREAS, the overall incarceration rate of African Americans in the state has continued
16 to significantly decline and is now at the lowest point since 1988, while carceral
17 commitments of African American men have dropped by 25.3 percent since 2009; and

18 WHEREAS, the state is diverting a larger percentage of nonviolent individuals away from
19 incarceration and into alternative programs; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to championing the fair and equitable administration of justice, the
21 reforms proposed by the Council have saved millions of taxpayer dollars by diverting more

22 than \$47 million into reentry, vocational training, accountability courts, and substance abuse
23 facilities; and

24 WHEREAS, the following members of the General Assembly have served on the Georgia
25 Council on Criminal Justice Reform and should be recognized: co-chairs Honorable Michael
26 P. Boggs, Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia, and Carey A. Miller, Esq., Deputy Executive
27 Counsel, Office of the Governor; Honorable Todd Markle, chair and designee of the
28 Governor and Superior Court Judge, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Representative Mary Margaret
29 Oliver, District 83, Decatur; David Werner, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office;
30 Representative Jay Powell, District 171, Camilla; Representative Wendell Willard, District
31 49, Sandy Springs; Senator Bill Cowsert, District 46, Athens; Representative Chuck
32 Efstration, District 104, Dacula; and Thomas Worthy, Esq., Director of Governmental and
33 External Affairs, State Bar of Georgia; and

34 WHEREAS, the Honorable Michael P. Boggs has been a member of the Council since its
35 inception and has been co-chair since 2013; and

36 WHEREAS, Justice Boggs' commitment and leadership have led to bipartisan, data driven
37 policy recommendations that have been endorsed by legislation and regulatory changes; and

38 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
39 extraordinary Justice and his stewardship of the Council be appropriately recognized.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body recognize the Honorable Michael P. Boggs for his seven years of
42 service to the citizens of Georgia on the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, thank
43 him for his dedication to justice, and commend the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice
44 Reform for their legacy of great accomplishment and manifold contributions to the fair and
45 equitable administration of justice in the State of Georgia.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
48 Honorable Michael P. Boggs and the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform.