

Senate Resolution 1164

By: Senator Watson of the 1st

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the students and teachers of Islands High School for their  
2 exemplary work with Teens in the Driver Seat; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, car accidents account for almost half of all teen deaths in America every year,  
4 which is more than any other cause; and the number one reason for teen crashes is driver  
5 inexperience, closely followed by night/drowsy driving, speeding/racing, distractions, low  
6 seat belt use, and driving while impaired; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2015, more than 2,300 teens were killed in car accidents, an average of six  
8 deaths each day and, in the State of Georgia alone, there were 173 fatalities due to motor  
9 vehicle collisions that involved people aged 19 or younger; and

10 WHEREAS, on a per-mile driven basis, teens between the ages of 16 and 19 are three times  
11 more likely to be involved in a fatal car crash than older drivers; and the majority of deaths  
12 of teen passengers occur when another teenager is driving; and

13 WHEREAS, for every American teen that is killed in a car accident, more than 100 are  
14 injured, and it is vital that action be taken in order to decrease the prevalence of teen deaths  
15 resulting from car accidents; and

16 WHEREAS, Safe Kids Georgia began a partnership with Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) and  
17 the Georgia Department of Transportation to educate middle and high school administrators  
18 and stakeholders around Georgia about TDS's award-winning, peer-to-peer program; and

19 WHEREAS, Teens in the Driver Seat is a free, noncurriculum-based program that is based  
20 at Texas A&M Transportation Institute, which is the largest transportation institute in the  
21 nation; and

22 WHEREAS, Teens in the Driver Seat has received eight major national awards over the past  
23 ten years; and creating a strong sense of safety culture in schools so that safe driving  
24 becomes the norm is the ultimate goal of this program; and

25 WHEREAS, to date, there are more than 60 middle and high schools participating in Teens  
26 in the Driver Seat activities in the State of Georgia; and each year, these schools compete for  
27 the TDS Cup through activities and qualifying outreach that the students submit, and cash  
28 prizes are awarded to the top three schools; and

29 WHEREAS, Islands High School is currently in first place as a result of its incredible  
30 involvement in the program; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of  
32 Teens in the Driver Seat and the students and teachers who contribute to the program's  
33 mission and success be appropriately recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
35 recognize and commend the students and teachers of Islands High School for their exemplary  
36 work with Teens in the Driver Seat.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Islands High  
39 School.