

Senate Resolution 695

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Parent of the 42nd, Stone of the 23rd, Black of the 8th, Tippins of the 37th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 5-9, 2020, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program was started by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 as a pilot
4 program serving 750 students and now provides quality early education experiences to more
5 than half of the state's four-year-old children; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K has helped prepare approximately 1.6 million of Georgia's
7 children for success in kindergarten and beyond since it began; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's Pre-K Program recognizes two outstanding educators - one from a
13 public school system and one from a private child care center - as Georgia's Pre-K Program
14 Teachers of the Year for 2019-2020. The Pre-K Teachers of the Year are Heather Williams
15 from Central Georgia Technical College's Larry O'Neal Child Development Center in
16 Warner Robins, Georgia, and Jonathan Hines from Barack H. Obama Elementary Magnet
17 School of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a growing commitment to improve the quality of child care in Georgia
19 with more than 3,500 programs participating in Quality Rated, the voluntary quality
20 improvement system for child care programs, with more than 2,000 programs star-rated; and

21 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry is crucial to Georgia's economy,
22 generating \$4.7 billion dollars of economic activity annually and providing more than 67,000
23 jobs in the industry itself and approximately 17,000 jobs in other market segments; and

24 WHEREAS, the early care and education industry in Georgia cares for an estimated 363,000
25 children a year in approximately 4,500 early care and education centers, including family
26 child care homes, group child care homes, pre-kindergarten programs, military family child
27 care homes, Head Start sites, and military early care and education centers; and

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

30 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Georgia will provide quality pre-kindergarten books to
31 legislators as a part of its commitment to improve early literacy throughout the state; and

32 WHEREAS, members of the Junior League of Atlanta, including president Andrea N. Smith
33 and president-elect Bre West, are present today in celebration of Georgia's Pre-K Program,
34 providing a solid start for our state's youngest learners.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize October 5-9, 2020, as Georgia Pre-K Week at the state capitol; thank the hundreds
37 of programs, teachers, aides, and staff who have built a nationally recognized
38 pre-kindergarten program and other high-quality early education programs; and encourage
39 parents, educators, community members, and business leaders to participate in Georgia Pre-K
40 Week and to support high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education for all children
41 in the great State of Georgia.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for Georgia's
44 Children and the public and the press.