

House Resolution 1252

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Gilligan of the 24th, and Silcox of the 52nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 24, 2020, as Meningococcal B Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is an illness caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria,
4 which can lead to infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), as well as
5 infections of the blood (septicemia); and

6 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease often occurs without warning, as it spreads from person
7 to person through close contact, such as coughing or kissing, in addition to lengthy contact,
8 such as cohabitation; and

9 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 out of every 100 people infected with meningococcal disease will die;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, about 11 to 19 out of every 100 survivors of meningococcal disease will have
12 long-term disabilities such as loss of limbs, deafness, nervous system problems, and brain
13 damage; and

14 WHEREAS, the risk of meningococcal disease is highest among children younger than one
15 year of age and adolescents and young adults between the ages of 16 and 23; and

16 WHEREAS, there are 12 serogroups or types of the bacteria that cause meningococcal
17 disease, but serogroups B, C, and Y caused the most meningococcal disease in the United
18 States from 2006-2015 (<1 to >65 years of age); and

19 WHEREAS, serogroup B caused approximately one-third of all meningococcal disease cases
20 among all age groups from 2006-2015; and

21 WHEREAS, serogroup B caused 62 percent of meningococcal disease cases in persons 16-23
22 years of age from 2015-2017; and

23 WHEREAS, incidence of serogroup B meningococcal disease in college students is low;
24 however, college students aged 18-21 years have higher rates of disease compared to persons
25 not attending college; and

26 WHEREAS, outbreaks of all serogroups of meningococcal disease can be devastating to
27 communities and organizations; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
29 recommends individuals ages ten and above, who are at increased risk for meningococcal
30 disease due to risk of exposure during a meningococcal B disease outbreak, have no spleen
31 or a dysfunctional spleen (including sickle cell disease), have a certain immune system
32 disorder known as persistent terminal complement component deficiency (or those taking the
33 drug, Soliris©), or microbiologists who routinely work with isolates of serogroup B N.
34 meningitidis receive more than one dose of serogroup B meningococcal vaccine for best
35 protection; and

36 WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that individuals ages 16 to 23, preferably 16-18 years of
37 age, may receive serogroup B meningococcal vaccination; and

38 WHEREAS, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases; and

39 WHEREAS, as April 24 is observed as National Meningitis B Awareness Day in the United
40 States, residents of Georgia should be encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to
41 ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against serogroup B meningococcal disease,
42 according to current CDC recommendations.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body recognize April 24, 2020, as Meningococcal B Awareness Day at
45 the state capitol in order to increase public awareness of the importance of appropriate
46 patients receiving vaccines against serogroup B meningococcal disease and urge the
47 promotion of outreach and education efforts concerning vaccination.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
50 public and the press.