

Senate Resolution 351

By: Senator Halpern of the 39th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 20, 2023, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)  
2 Heritage Day, a day to honor the critical role of HBCUs; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, HBCUs were first founded before the American Civil War with the purpose of  
4 opening the doors of educational opportunity for many African Americans who were once  
5 legally denied higher education due to racial discrimination; and

6 WHEREAS, there are over 100 HBCUs in the nation, and ten of these institutions of learning  
7 are established here in the State of Georgia with three public HBCUs housed within the  
8 University System of Georgia: Albany State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort  
9 Valley State University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of  
10 Medicine, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Paine College, Savannah State  
11 University, and Spelman College; and

12 WHEREAS, Clark Atlanta University was the first HBCU in the Southern United States,  
13 founded as Atlanta University in 1865, and Savannah State University, established in 1890,  
14 is the oldest public historically Black college in the State of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, HBCUs significantly contribute to the creation of African American science  
16 degree holders in agriculture, biology, computer science, physical science, and social science  
17 and confer 40 percent of all STEM degrees while also providing African American students  
18 with a nurturing environment to explore their collective identities and cultures; and

19 WHEREAS, there are many notable HBCU alumni, including United States Senator Raphael  
20 Warnock (Morehouse College); five members of Georgia's Congressional Delegation: United  
21 States House representatives Sanford Bishop Jr. (Morehouse College), Hank Johnson (Clark  
22 College/Clark Atlanta University), Lucy McBath (Virginia State University), David Scott  
23 (Florida A&M University), and Nikema Williams (Talladega College); many members of  
24 the Georgia General Assembly; and countless other influential leaders and innovators across  
25 all fields; and

26 WHEREAS, the economic impact of HBCUs in Georgia and across the country continues  
27 to climb, generating more than \$1.3 billion in total impact to Georgia's economy; and

28 WHEREAS, HBCUs will continue to make an impact for generations to come by playing an  
29 important role with regard to access, education, research, and service in its empowerment of  
30 the next generation of Black leaders.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 recognize March 20, 2023, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities Heritage Day to  
33 honor the contributions these institutions have made to the world.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
36 press.