

House Resolution 1599

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150th, Jackson of the 128th, Hitchens of the 161st, Lumsden of the 12th, and Burns of the 159th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging all law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia to implement psychological
2 testing and improve current training practices for peace officers; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, we acknowledge and respect the incredibly difficult task law enforcement
4 officials have each and every day, and we thank them for the dedication demonstrated by
5 their willingness to serve; and

6 WHEREAS, members of the General Assembly are proud and appreciative of the work our
7 law enforcement officers do to keep all our communities safe, and we also realize that we
8 have a duty to ensure law enforcement officials are properly and adequately prepared to serve
9 these same communities; and

10 WHEREAS, in light of recent tragic events involving law enforcement officers and members
11 of the public that have damaged and questioned the role of law enforcement in our
12 communities and the public's interaction with our officers, we are compelled to address
13 current law enforcement practices and procedures as a state in order to ensure that the law
14 enforcement community and the public enjoy a mutually respectful relationship; and

15 WHEREAS, we therefore urge the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council
16 (P.O.S.T.) and state and local law enforcement agencies to implement psychological
17 evaluation procedures that assess an applicant's ability to adapt in evolving situations, to
18 think critically, and to safely and effectively resolve conflicts; and

19 WHEREAS, furthermore, we urge P.O.S.T. and state and local law enforcement agencies to
20 review and revise current practices for safe and effective conflict resolution, and we further
21 urge them to take a more proactive and conscious role in enmeshing their departments in
22 their local community so as to create a greater level of trust between members of the
23 community and law enforcement officers.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body urge all law enforcement agencies in the state of Georgia to
26 implement psychological testing and improve current training practices for peace officers.

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