

The House Committee on State Planning and Community Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 208:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to provide that the second Wednesday of February of each
3 year shall be designated as "National Swearing-in Commitment Day" in Georgia; to provide
4 for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Since 1916, the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) has allowed young
10 men and women to experience a sample of military life. Members of JROTC are able to
11 familiarize themselves with the traditions, activities, and morals of the military and seek
12 out potential careers;

13 (2) Most of the activities in JROTC are awarded, sometimes publicly, at various
14 ceremonies, banquets, and other events. Rewarding success serves to motivate some and
15 move them toward a career in the military;

16 (3) Likewise, colleges and universities reward athletes at the high school level with
17 scholarships. Moreover, many athletes are recognized on signing days. Some signing
18 days are attended by a large number of students, faculty, staff, and the community. The
19 hard work and education of the athletes does not go unrecognized. Those who intend to
20 join and start a career defending the nation should be acknowledged and supported on
21 local, state, and national levels; and

22 (4) Putting such a day in place would build unity and support for all components (Army,
23 Navy, Marines, Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Coast Guard)
24 of our national defense.

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
27 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

28 "1-4-24.

29 The second Wednesday of February of each year is designated as 'National Swearing-in
30 Commitment Day' in Georgia."

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.