

House Resolution 524

By: Representatives Williams of the 168th, DeLoach of the 167th, Jackson of the 165th, Gilliard of the 162nd, and Adeyina of the 110th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing "Kumbaya" as the Gullah Geechee Anthem; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the song "Kumbaya," also known by its original title "Come by Here", is a
3 cherished spiritual folk song with deep roots in the Gullah-Geechee culture of the Sea
4 Islands; and
- 5 WHEREAS, "Kumbaya" is recognized as Georgia's first state historical song and holds
6 global significance, having become a symbol of American folk music; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the song was first recorded in Georgia, with the first known recording
8 documented by the Library of Congress, establishing its national and cultural significance;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1926, numerous folk songs in the Gullah dialect, also known as Sea Islands
11 Creole, were preserved and shared with the world, helping to elevate the cultural voice of the
12 Gullah-Geechee people; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mr. H. Wylie, an African American of Gullah-Geechee heritage, granted
14 permission for the song "Come by Here" to be recorded, marking a pivotal moment in the

15 preservation of the spiritual and cultural contributions of the Gullah-Geechee community;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the song "Kumbaya" has transcended its origins as a spiritual song, becoming
18 a widely recognized anthem of unity, hope, and cultural pride; and

19 WHEREAS, the Gullah-Geechee people have made significant contributions to the cultural
20 fabric of Georgia and the United States, with their language, music, and traditions playing
21 an integral role in the history and heritage of this nation.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body recognize "Kumbaya" as the official anthem of the Gullah-Geechee
24 culture, honoring its historical importance and acknowledging the ongoing contributions of
25 the Gullah-Geechee people to our state and nation.

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