

House Resolution 1681

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 155th, Efstoration of the 104th, Burns of the 159th, Hugley of the 141st, Gambill of the 15th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Atlanta World Cup Host Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in June 2022, Atlanta, Georgia, was selected through a highly competitive bid
3 process to serve as one of the 16 host cities across three different countries for the FIFA
4 World Cup 2026, one of the world's most prestigious international sporting events; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the FIFA World Cup 2026 will occur over a month in Georgia, with the first
6 group match in Atlanta on June 15, 2026, and the semi-final match on July 15, 2026; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Atlanta, Georgia, was awarded eight FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, the
8 second highest number of matches, which includes five group stage matches, a round of 32
9 match, a round of 16 match, and a semi-final match; and
- 10 WHEREAS, this summer, Atlanta and the State of Georgia will welcome Cabo Verde, Haiti,
11 Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, Uzbekistan, European Play-Off D Winner, and
12 Intercontinental Play-Off 1 Winner; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The Atlanta Sports Council spearheaded the bid to host the FIFA World Cup
14 2026 alongside its partners in the community and state, including the Atlanta Convention &

15 Visitors Bureau, Arthur M. Blank Sports and Entertainment, Georgia World Congress Center
16 Authority, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Metro Atlanta Chamber, the City of Atlanta, and the
17 State of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly and Governor Brian P. Kemp championed
19 Georgia's ability to host major sporting events with the extension of the sales tax exemption
20 on tickets for major sporting events and a \$25 million appropriation to facilitate public
21 safety, security, and infrastructure costs for hosting FIFA World Cup 2026; and

22 WHEREAS, the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be hosted at the world-class Mercedes-Benz
23 Stadium, the home of Atlanta United and the Atlanta Falcons; future home of Atlanta's
24 National Women's Soccer League (NSWL) team; and the future host of multiple major
25 sporting events, including Super Bowl 62 and the NCAA Men's Final Four 2031; and

26 WHEREAS, Cox Enterprises, Georgia-Pacific, The Home Depot, NAPA Auto Parts, and
27 Southern Company signed on as official Atlanta World Cup Host City Supporters to provide
28 business community support for our city and state's ability to host this prestigious
29 international event; and

30 WHEREAS, over 3,000 volunteers from Georgia, the Southeast, and the world have stepped
31 forward to serve as ambassadors, offering the first impression for guests and showcasing our
32 first-class hospitality for national and international visitors across the event's footprint; and

33 WHEREAS, the Atlanta World Cup Host Committee will support the development of a new
34 Station Soccer location at the Hamilton E. Holmes MARTA Station in partnership with
35 Soccer in the Streets, creating a community hub for youth programming, transportation,
36 education, and a public space to foster community support; and

37 WHEREAS, the Atlanta World Cup Host Committee is committed to creating lasting,
38 statewide impact through a strategic partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Georgia
39 in local communities, including plans in Albany, Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Dalton,
40 Fayetteville, Gainesville, Macon, Rome, the Savannah/Statesboro area, Valdosta,
41 Thomasville, Brunswick, and the Blue Ridge region; and

42 WHEREAS, the FIFA World Cup 2026 has catalyzed development all across our state,
43 spurring over \$5 billion in private development occurring in Downtown Atlanta and over
44 \$100 million in infrastructure investments improving Atlanta's preparedness for residents and
45 visitors from around the world; and

46 WHEREAS, the FIFA World Cup 2026 is projected to generate more than \$500 million in
47 economic impact for the State of Georgia from spending by out-of-state attendees throughout
48 its duration.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body commend the Atlanta World Cup Host Committee for its efforts
51 to prepare Atlanta and the State of Georgia to welcome national and international visitors for
52 the FIFA World Cup 2026.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
54 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
55 Atlanta World Cup Host Committee.