

House Resolution 1122

By: Representatives Nix of the 69th, Dempsey of the 13th, Houston of the 170th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Ballinger of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 28, 2018, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, afterschool programs provide Georgia's youth with safe, challenging, and
4 engaging learning experiences that help them to develop social, emotional, physical, and
5 academic skills; and

6 WHEREAS, more time spent in afterschool programs is associated with better work habits,
7 improved academic performance, better attitudes regarding school, improved grade point
8 average, and fewer school absences; and

9 WHEREAS, afterschool programs support working families and build stronger communities
10 by ensuring that children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends, and by
11 involving parents, community leaders, businessmen, and adult volunteers in the lives of
12 young people; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study from the Afterschool Alliance, approximately 16
14 percent of Georgia's school-aged youth are in afterschool programs, but nearly 600,000 more
15 of Georgia's youth would participate in an afterschool program if one were available in their
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, more than 315,000 of Georgia's youth are alone and unsupervised between the
18 hours of 3 P.M. and 6 P.M., the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with
19 drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sex; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people
21 by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help to close the achievement gap and
22 to prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia state agencies, including the Departments of Education, Human
24 Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Early Care and Learning, and
25 Public Health as well as the Georgia Alliances of YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs play a
26 critical role in supporting Georgia's youth through quality afterschool and summer
27 programming; and

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative, has
29 convened these organizations and afterschool providers from across the state for the
30 inaugural Afterschool Day at the state capitol in order to encourage lawmakers to recognize
31 the critical role that afterschool programs play in supporting communities and preparing
32 Georgia's youth for success in college and throughout their life and career.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize February 28, 2018, as Afterschool Day at the state
35 capitol.

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