

## House Resolution 1657

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Anulewicz of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, Dunahoo of the 31<sup>st</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, LaHood of the 175<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 26, 2024, as Pickleball Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 1965, Joel Pritchard, a congressman from Washington State, and Bill Bell,  
3 a successful businessman, invented a new game on Bainbridge Island to entertain their  
4 families, improvising with ping-pong paddles and a plastic ball on a badminton court; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the two men then introduced the game to Barney McCallum, and all three  
6 worked together to create official rules for the game, which were heavily inspired by  
7 badminton; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the game soon received the name "pickleball" from Joel's wife, Joan, who  
9 named it in reference to the thrown-together leftover non-starters in the "pickle boat" of crew  
10 races; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in the 1980s, pickleball's popularity began to grow with the organization of  
12 tournaments and the introduction of the first pickleball rulebook in March 1984; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2021, 2022, and 2023, pickleball was named the fastest-growing sport in the  
14 United States by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with more than 13.6 million  
15 players and the addition of over 1,000 new locations; and

16 WHEREAS, as the largest member-based pickleball organization in the State of Georgia,  
17 Southern Pickleball has grown since 2021 to include more than 6,000 members, and it  
18 currently runs pickleball events and tournaments in eight southern states; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2024, Southern Pickleball is set to host the Southeastern Championships at  
20 the Rhythm and Rally Sports and Event Center in Macon, Georgia, which is expected to  
21 attract more than 1,000 players from across the southeast; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding sport be appropriately  
23 honored for its impact on this state.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
25 the members of this body recognize March 26, 2024, as Pickleball Day at the state capitol.

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