

House Resolution 168

By: Representatives Holly of the 116th, Evans of the 57th, Oliver of the 82nd, Hutchinson of the 106th, Stoner of the 40th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging members of Georgia's Employment First Council to develop recommendations on
2 how best to transition current use of sub-minimum wage practices to competitive integrated
3 employment options for people with developmental disabilities; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 831, "Georgia's Employment
5 First Act," during the 2017 Legislative Session; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Nathan Deal signed "Georgia's Employment First Act" into law on
7 May 8, 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, "Georgia's Employment First Act" created Georgia's Employment First Council,
9 whose purpose is to "advise the Governor, General Assembly, and state agencies as to the
10 adoption and integration of a policy that recognizes that competitive integrated employment,
11 including self-employment, is the first and preferred option of all state funded services
12 provided to working age individuals with disabilities"; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2018, 16,671 Georgians with developmental disabilities were in day
14 services/employment services while only 13 percent, or 2,101, were in competitive integrated
15 employment; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2018, Georgia spent \$169,315,922 in state and federal spending on day
17 services/employment services, using only 5.4 percent, or \$9,185,313, to support Georgians
18 with developmental disabilities in competitive integrated employment; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2017, nearly 2,389 Georgians with developmental disabilities spent time
20 throughout the week at sheltered workshops, where they are paid less than minimum wage
21 for the work they perform; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2017, Georgia spent \$132,206 for sheltered workshops and other non-work
23 facility-based services; and

24 WHEREAS, there is an effort throughout the United States supported by the United Centers
25 for Medicare and Medicaid Services to end sub-minimum wages for individuals and to
26 recognize that employment paid at the fair market value should be the first option for
27 individuals with developmental disabilities.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body urge the Employment First Council of Georgia to hold public
30 hearings, study, and construct a strategic plan to present to the General Assembly before
31 December 31, 2023, regarding how Georgia can eliminate the use of sub-minimum wages
32 and increase competitive integrated employment options for its citizens with developmental
33 disabilities.

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