

Senate Resolution 76

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st, Beach of the 21st, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging any organization that administers or conducts high-risk athletic activities for
2 children 14 and under on property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state of
3 Georgia to make accessible to athletic directors and coaches a training program covering
4 important safety information for prevention and treatment of injuries to our young athletes;
5 and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, there are 35 million children playing at least one sport in the United States, and
7 about 10 percent of them will see a physician annually about an injury; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the CDC the preventable nature of youth sports injuries is
9 dependent on the information available to parents and the education of coaches regarding
10 injury recognition and prevention; and

11 WHEREAS, there are approximately 250,000 coaches responsible for youth athletes 14 and
12 under in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, studies have shown that parents of young athletes are more concerned about
14 injuries than any other issue; and

15 WHEREAS, according to a 2021 report by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA),
16 less than half of youth sports coaches were trained to deliver CPR and first aid, only
17 one-third received training in injury prevention or physical conditioning, and only a quarter
18 were trained to manage concussions. Deficiencies were also found in areas of heat
19 exhaustion, mental health, and social behavior education; and

20 WHEREAS, the CoachSafely Foundation along with the Georgia Recreation and Parks
21 Association and joined in support by the Medical Association of Georgia and the Georgia
22 High School Association represent a collaborative approach to address this public health
23 issue characterized by the CDC as an epidemic through training and educating coaches who
24 have direct impact with youth; and

25 WHEREAS, the National Council of Youth Sports recommends that training courses for
26 youth sports coaches should include, at a minimum, emergency preparedness for traumatic
27 injuries, concussions and head trauma, heat and extreme weather-related injury, physical
28 conditioning and training equipment usage, heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden
29 cardiac death, communicable and infectious disease, mental health and abuse, and social
30 behavioral education; and

31 WHEREAS, this recommendation is intended to mitigate the liability risk caused by a lack
32 of adequate training that leads to neglect and to encourage government agencies that oversee
33 land use by independent youth athletic organizations to develop collaborative strategies in
34 youth sports injury prevention; and

35 WHEREAS, the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association has approved the CoachSafely
36 and other coach education programs for training volunteer youth sports coaches and parents.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 encourage any organization that administers or conducts high-risk athletic activities for
39 children 14 and under on property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state of
40 Georgia to make accessible to athletic directors and coaches a training program covering
41 important safety information for prevention and treatment of injuries to our young athletes.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
44 press.