

Senate Resolution 826

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Burke of the 11th, Beach of the 21st,
Hufstetler of the 52nd, Albers of the 56th and others

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, most youth coaches do not receive any training in key competencies in working
16 with children. In a national study, less than half of youth sports coaches were trained to
17 deliver CPR and first aid, only one-third received training in injury prevention or physical
18 conditioning, and only a quarter were trained to manage concussions; and

19 WHEREAS, the CoachSafely Foundation and other organizations have a broad approach to
20 address this public health issue characterized by the CDC as an epidemic, and consistent with
21 the 2009 Student Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) Act; and

22 WHEREAS, training courses for youth sports coaches should include, at a minimum,
23 emergency preparedness for traumatic injuries, concussions and head trauma, heat and
24 extreme weather related injury, physical conditioning and training equipment usage, heart
25 defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac death, communicable and infectious
26 disease, and mental health; and

27 WHEREAS, this recommendation is intended to mitigate liability risk caused by lack of
28 adequate training, and to encourage government agencies that oversee land use by
29 independent youth athletic organizations to develop collaborative strategies in youth sports
30 injury prevention.

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

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