**Resolution creating “Plastic Pollution Awareness Day”**

WHEREAS, Georgia recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability and recognizes Hannah Testa, age 14, of Cumming, Georgia for her involvement and commitment to environmental sustainability in Georgia and beyond; and

WHEREAS; the average American uses 500-700 single-use, disposable plastic bags per year; and

WHEREAS; approximately 500 million single-use, disposable plastic straws are used in the United States each day; and

WHEREAS; Americans throw away billions of plastic water bottles every year; and

WHEREAS; virtually every plastic product ever produced still exists on this earth somewhere; and

WHEREAS; birds, fish, turtles, dolphins, sharks, and whales are killed by being entangled in plastic or eating plastic products; and

WHEREAS; harmful chemicals from certain plastics can be absorbed by the human body; and

WHEREAS; production of plastic products consumes our precious fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, we currently recover only approximately nine percent of the plastics we produce; and

WHEREAS; Georgia consumers and retailers should seek out alternatives to using single-use, throw away plastic products; and

WHEREAS; consumers in Georgia should strive to reduce their plastic footprint, including taking advantage of paper straws, reusable bags, and other practical alternatives to using single-use plastic products; and

WHEREAS; local Georgia businesses should also strive to reduce their plastic footprint by seeking out and adopting environmental best practices from leading businesses; and

WHEREAS; Georgia consumers and businesses should consider a pledge to refuse single-use, disposable plastic products for at least one day out of the year; and

WHEREAS; Georgia residents should consider volunteering at a street, river, lake, or beach cleanup at least one day out of the year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE SENATE BODY that annually on (date) be recognized as Plastic Pollution Awareness Day at the Capitol.

