

House Bill 373 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Jones of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Sainz of the 180<sup>th</sup>, Sharper of the 177<sup>th</sup>, McCollum of the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate September 11 of each year as "First Responders  
3 Appreciation Day" in Georgia; to provide legislative findings; to provide for related matters;  
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that:

- 8 (1) On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States, killing 2,977 people  
9 and injuring thousands more at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Somerset  
10 County, Pennsylvania;
- 11 (2) First responders risked and sacrificed their lives on September 11, 2001, in order to  
12 render aid to victims of the terrorist attacks;
- 13 (3) The sacrifice made by those first responders on September 11, 2001, exemplifies the  
14 heroic and dangerous work that first responders carry out every day in their communities;
- 15 (4) Throughout the country, courageous and dedicated men and women work to protect  
16 and aid the public during emergencies as both professional and volunteer first responders,

17 risking their own safety in the performance of their duty to protect the citizens of their  
18 communities;

19 (6) First responders are the first and best defense against all emergencies that threaten  
20 communities around the country and in this state; and

21 (7) It is abundantly fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately recognize  
22 and honor the sacrifices made by first responders in the service of their communities by  
23 designating September 11 of each year as "First Responders Appreciation Day" in  
24 Georgia.

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and  
27 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

28 "1-4-25.1.

29 (a) September 11 of each year is designated as 'First Responders Appreciation Day' in  
30 Georgia.

31 (b) Officials and departments of the state, educational institutions, members of the media,  
32 and all citizens of Georgia are encouraged to participate in programs, displays, and  
33 activities that show appreciation to Georgia's first responders and the sacrifice they make  
34 in the service of their communities."

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.