

1 A RESOLUTION celebrating Black History Month and honoring keynote speaker
2 of the annual Black History Celebration, Georgia State Representative Billy Mitchell.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who worked in the Kentucky coal mines as a
4 child and was the son of former slaves, enrolled in high school at the age of 20 and went
5 on to graduate from Berea College with a bachelor's degree, received his master's degree
6 from the University of Chicago, and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University, where he
7 was one of the first scholars to study African American history; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Woodson proposed and launched a weeklong celebration
9 of the individuals and occasions having a significant impact on African American history,
10 and has since been known as the "Father of Black History"; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose the month of February to conduct this
12 commemoration because the birthdays of two men whose actions have significantly
13 affected African Americans in this country are in February—namely Frederick Douglass,
14 the gifted orator, writer, and statesman who was a tireless advocate of the anti-slavery
15 movement, and President Abraham Lincoln; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1976, the commemoration was extended from a weeklong event to
17 the entire month of February; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Kentucky Legislative Black Caucus and all Kentuckians
19 pause to recognize and reflect on the accomplishments African Americans have made in
20 this Commonwealth and across the nation throughout each year, and throughout the
21 history of this nation, and in so doing we commemorate our annual Black History
22 Celebration; and

23 WHEREAS, the keynote speaker at this year's Black History Celebration is
24 esteemed Georgia State Representative Billy Mitchell; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Mitchell is the nationally elected president of the
26 National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL). He leads more than 700 members
27 of the NBCSL who represent more than 60 million Black Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, NBCSL serves as a national network, advocate, and catalyst for public
2 policy innovation, information exchange, and joint action on critical issues affecting
3 African Americans and other marginalized communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Mitchell was elected to the Georgia General Assembly
5 in 2002. A previous city councilman and vice mayor of Stone Mountain, Georgia, and a
6 proud graduate of Rutgers University, the University of Southern California, and the
7 Georgia State University College of Law, Representative Mitchell has served the Georgia
8 General Assembly with his trademark professionalism and compassion, and is a testament
9 to Black leadership at a time when such leadership is vital; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Mitchell served as the Government Affairs Chair of the
11 100 Black Men of America-DeKalb County Chapter, and has honorably served as a
12 delegate to the last seven National Democratic Conventions. He presently serves as chair
13 of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus, and was elected as president of the National
14 Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Mitchell is the recipient of several awards and
16 commendations for his service, including the DeKalb NAACP Pat Jones Community
17 Service Award and was one of *Georgia Trend* Magazine's "40 Leaders Under 40," and
18 has been named Legislator of the Year by numerous state organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, this body pauses on this day to reflect on the life and work of Georgia
20 State Representative Billy Mitchell, and thanks him for his ongoing service to the state of
21 Georgia and for his contributions to the Black experience in this great Nation;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, individually and collectively, hereby
26 celebrate Black History Month in February, and urge all Kentuckians to reflect on the
27 profound contributions African Americans have made and continue to make on behalf of

1 this Commonwealth and its citizens.

2 ➔Section 2. The Senate honors keynote speaker, Georgia State Representative
3 Billy Mitchell, and commends him for his contributions to his state and his constituents.

4 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
5 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal.