

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 656

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
2 PRESIDENT JAMES E. LYONS, SR., UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
3 FROM OFFICE.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. James Earl Lyons, Sr., President of Jackson
5 State University, is stepping down from office to assume the
6 presidency of another institution; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. James Earl Lyons, Sr. assumed the presidency of
8 Jackson State University on July 1, 1992; he became the eighth
9 president of Mississippi's fourth largest institution of higher
10 learning and one of the nation's premier Historically Black
11 Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); and

12 WHEREAS, Lyons brought to Jackson State a proven track record
13 of rallying businessmen, city and county officials and community
14 leaders behind the goals of a university; since arriving at
15 Jackson State, he has been able to attract support from all
16 segments of the community and collectively, they have recognized
17 the need for developing Jackson State University as the Urban
18 University of Mississippi and developing the West Jackson
19 community; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the most important steps in that direction
21 has been Lyons' development of a Campus Master Plan that projects
22 the growth of the university well into the 21st Century; land and
23 other property have been secured for growth and revitalization of
24 the area around the campus; a \$16 million home for the School of
25 Liberal Arts, the first of several new buildings envisioned in the
26 Campus Master Plan, is in the final planning stages; also underway

27 is a \$12 million expansion of the H.T. Sampson Library, an effort
28 which will nearly double the library's existing size; all of the
29 growth and expansion under Lyons' leadership are not occurring
30 within the confines of the campus. Overwhelming support of a
31 proposed parkway, an extensive boulevard which will link Jackson
32 State to the downtown business district and greatly improve West
33 Jackson, has been received from city, county, state and federal
34 officials; and

35 WHEREAS, under Lyons' leadership, Jackson State moves
36 confidently toward the future as a major force in the region and
37 among its peer institutions; additional graduate and undergraduate
38 programs have been implemented; namely, the Ph.D. in Clinical
39 Psychology and the B.S. in Child Care and Family Education; along
40 with the Council on Social Work Education's approval of candidacy
41 status for the master's degree in social work program, these
42 degree programs clearly emphasize Jackson State's role in
43 providing programs that seek solutions to urban problems in the
44 physical, social, intellectual and economic environments;
45 additional achievements in the academic realms include the
46 selection of Jackson State University as a contender in the
47 National Science Foundation's Minority Institution of Excellence
48 (MIE) program; the identification of Jackson State as the sole
49 HBCU with a Reading Recovery Program, an intervention program for
50 "at risk" first grade students; and the completion of the process
51 for acquiring accreditation of the Jackson State University School
52 of Business; and

53 WHEREAS, prior to assuming the presidency of Jackson State
54 University, Lyons served as President of Bowie State University
55 (Maryland) for nine years (1983-1992); other administrative posts
56 include Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs, Chief
57 Negotiator and Professor of Education at Delaware State College in
58 Dover, Delaware, from 1978 to 1983; Vice-President for Academic
59 Affairs and Professor of Education at Barber-Scotia College,
60 Concord, North Carolina, from 1975 to 1978; Assistant to the
61 Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Summer School
62 at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, North Carolina
63 from 1974 to 1975; administrative assistant to the Vice-President

64 for Academic Affairs, Director of Institutional Research and as
65 Social Professor of Education at Kentucky State University,
66 Frankfort, Kentucky, from 1973 to 1974; Assistant Dean of
67 Students, Director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, Black
68 Student Advisor, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut,
69 from 1969 to 1973; instructor of Afro-American Studies at Central
70 Connecticut State College, New Britain, Connecticut; and Director
71 of the Conscience Educational Day Camp of Temple University, North
72 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1967 to 1969; and

73 WHEREAS, Lyons also worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in
74 Ecuador during the late 1960s and as a tutor-counselor with the
75 Rodman Job Corps in New Bedford, Massachusetts; and

76 WHEREAS, a native of New Haven, Connecticut, Lyons holds
77 degrees from the University of Connecticut (B.A., Spanish, 1965;
78 M.A., Student Personnel, 1971; Ph.D., Professional Higher
79 Education, 1973) and has done post-doctoral study at the Harvard
80 University Institute for Educational Management; Lyons serves on
81 the board of directors of a number of organizations including the
82 American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU),
83 the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
84 (NAFEO), Institute for Technology Development (ITD), Basic
85 Technologies International (BTI) and Capitol City, Incorporated.
86 He is a reviewer on the Objective Review Committee which evaluates
87 grants for the Division of Programs for Special Populations,
88 Department of Health and Human Services and has also served as a
89 member of the editorial board of the Educational Record; he is the
90 Public University Representative to the Board of Directors,
91 Mississippi Association of Colleges (MAC), President of the
92 Council of Presidents, Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and
93 serves on the Hall of Fame Committee of the Mississippi Press
94 Association and the Information Resource Council of the
95 Mississippi Central Data Processing Authority; a widely published
96 author, Lyons has written articles on subjects ranging from the

97 United States Constitution to integration and race relations. His
98 works have appeared in such publications as the Educational
99 Record, the Howard Law Review, The Journal of Negro Education,
100 Today's Education, Essence Magazine and World View, a publication
101 of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities'
102 Office of International Programs; he has made numerous appearances
103 before school, community and professional groups and has appeared
104 before Congress a number of times as a spokesman for such groups
105 as ACE, AASCU and NAFEO. He has served as the lead person in
106 AASCU's Delegation of Presidents to Mexico and has judged The
107 Clarion-Ledger's All-Star Seniors Competition; Lyons is a member
108 of numerous organizations, including the Office for the
109 Advancement of Public Black Colleges, the National Association of
110 State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC); the American
111 Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE); Phi Delta
112 Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi; Pi Lambda Theta; 100 Black Men of Jackson,
113 Inc.; Information Resource Council, Mississippi Central Data
114 Processing Authority (CDPA); Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and
115 Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Beta Mu Boule; and

116 WHEREAS, Lyons is married to the former Jocelyn Massie and is
117 the father of three sons; and

118 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the service
119 of this individual who has brought pride to Jackson State
120 University, the City of Jackson and to the State of Mississippi:

121 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
122 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
123 we do hereby commend Jackson State University President James E.
124 Lyons, Sr., upon the occasion of his retirement from office, and
125 wish him and his family continued success in his future career
126 endeavors.

127 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
128 Dr. Lyons and his family and be made available to the Capitol
129 Press Corps.