

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 656  
(As Adopted by Senate)

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.