

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Harden, Jackson,  
Harvey, Thames, Simmons, Blackmon, Jordan,  
Little, Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 601

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JACKSON  
2 STATE UNIVERSITY LADY TIGER BASKETBALL COACH DENISE TAYLOR AND HER  
3 STAFF FOR THE SUCCESSFUL 2001-2002 SEASON AND THE NEW DIRECTION OF  
4 THE PROGRAM.

5 WHEREAS, when Jackson State University hired Denise Taylor to  
6 coach the Lady Tiger Basketball Team in June of 2001, she promised  
7 the team would play hard, play aggressive defense and be prepared  
8 to play. Nine months since Taylor addressed the media at a press  
9 conference accepting the JSU job, the Lady Tiger Basketball Team  
10 followed Coach T's plan and philosophy and finished the season as  
11 one of the top teams in the Southwestern Athletic Conference; and

12 WHEREAS, the Lady Tigers completed Taylor's first season with  
13 a 16-13 overall record and made it to the semifinal round of the  
14 SWAC Tournament where they were eliminated by league and eventual  
15 tournament champions, Southern University (24-4 on the year) in  
16 overtime, 65-63. The team won 12 of its last 16 games. The 16-13  
17 record was accomplished with virtually the same players that went  
18 16-37 the two years prior to Taylor's arrival; and

19 WHEREAS, Taylor's success at JSU should come as no surprise.  
20 In 1991, Taylor made school history at American International  
21 College in Springfield, Massachusetts, when she coached the team  
22 to its first winning season while setting nine school records.  
23 Two years later, she was named Conference Coach of the Year as she  
24 guided the Golden Eagles of Northeastern Illinois University to  
25 back-to-back winning seasons. In 1997, Taylor was chosen as one  
26 of eight coaches to launch the inaugural season of the WNBA.  
27 Taylor was named the Head Coach of the Utah Starzz in Salt Lake  
28 City, Utah; and



29           WHEREAS, in her first year directing the Lady Tiger  
30 basketball program, Taylor showed that her versatility and talent  
31 exceeded the coaching arena. She served as color analyst on the  
32 JSU men's basketball radio broadcast and MBN tabbed her to do the  
33 color on its telecast of the SWAC's women tournament championship  
34 game; and

35           WHEREAS, LaTasha Lee, a sophomore point guard, was the team  
36 leader. More than any other player on the team, she epitomized  
37 Taylor's defensive philosophy. She led the nation in steals for  
38 most of the year and finished the season with 129. She led the  
39 team and SWAC in assists with 156 (6.0 per game); and surprisingly  
40 from her point guard position, she led the team in rebounding,  
41 averaging 7.1 per game; and

42           WHEREAS, junior forward, Genina Johnson, was the team's  
43 leading scorer, averaging 15.7 points per game. She also led the  
44 team in three-point shooting, hitting 74 of 229 attempts. Junior  
45 guard Sonia Washington was the team's second leading scorer (9.8)  
46 and she was second in three-point shooting (22 of 78). Seniors  
47 Demetria Richards (C) and LaKimberly Johnson (F) averaged 7.5 and  
48 6.6 points per game, respectively. Senior reserves Lamatha Doss  
49 (G) averaged 3.1 points per game, Stacey Webb (G) averaged 4.1  
50 points per game in an injury-shortened season and Mekel Richardson  
51 (F) averaged 1.0 points per game. Lee, Genina Johnson and  
52 Washington, along with other teammates Revah DeMar, Jasmine Walls,  
53 Alisha Richard, Shi'Nitta "Rene" Woulard, Chinye're Marner and  
54 Christina Buford, give Taylor and her staff, Larry McNeal, Gloria  
55 Miller and Freddy Murray, a solid nucleus to build around for the  
56 future; and

57           WHEREAS, Coach Taylor's basic coaching philosophy is  
58 attention to details through the teaching of fundamentals, and it  
59 is with pride that we recognize her early success in turning the  
60 program around at JSU and bringing honor to her university and to  
61 the State of Mississippi:



62           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
64 we do hereby commend and congratulate Jackson State University  
65 Lady Tiger Basketball Coach Denise Taylor and her staff for the  
66 successful 2001-2002 season and for the new direction of the JSU  
67 program, and wish her continued success in future seasons.

68           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
69 presented to Coach Denise Taylor and to the 2001-2002 Lady Tigers  
70 Basketball Team, be forwarded to the President of Jackson State  
71 University, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

