

By: Senator(s) Little, Chaney, Nunnelee, Gordon, Harden, Kirby, Thames, Harvey, Scoper, Dickerson, Jackson, Walls, Dearing, Farris, Browning, King, Furniss, Tollison, Turner, Carmichael, Smith, Jordan, Williamson, Dawkins, Chamberlin, Minor, Carlton, Robertson, Hyde-Smith, Hewes, Burton, Hamilton, Stogner, Mettetal, Moffatt, Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. RICHARD L. THOMPSON FOR HIS
2 SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF MISSISSIPPI UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS
3 DEPARTURE AFTER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS STATE
4 SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, on June 20, 2002, Dr. Richard L. Thompson announced
6 his resignation as State Superintendent of Education in
7 Mississippi after four years of outstanding leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, he is completing his second tenure of dedicated
9 service as Mississippi's State Superintendent of Education; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Warren County, North Carolina, he
11 received his Doctor of Education from the University of North
12 Carolina at Greensboro, his Master of Education from the
13 University of North Carolina at Charlotte, his Bachelor of Arts
14 from Elon College, and his Associate of Arts from Chowan College;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, he served as Deputy State Superintendent of Public
17 Schools for North Carolina and as the Director of the North
18 Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching; and

19 WHEREAS, he served as Superintendent of the Tupelo Public
20 School District from 1987-1990; and

21 WHEREAS, he served on numerous boards and commissions,
22 including the Council of Chief State School Officers' Service
23 Advisory Committee, the Southeastern Regional Vision for
24 Education, the Governor's Commission on Workforce Excellence, the
25 Mississippi Economic Council, and Mississippi Authority for
26 Educational Television; and

27 WHEREAS, he was awarded the Order of Long Leaf Pine by North
28 Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, which is the highest honor bestowed
29 upon a citizen of the state; and

30 WHEREAS, he was awarded the Mississippi Association of
31 Educators' and the Mississippi Association of School
32 Superintendents' Friend of Education Award; and

33 WHEREAS, he received a Phi Delta Kappa award from the
34 northeast Mississippi chapter of Phi Delta Kappa; and

35 WHEREAS, he participated in the historic activities
36 surrounding the signing of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, his instrumental leadership has resulted in a strong
39 assessment and accountability model, which was ranked sixth in the
40 nation by *The Princeton Review* as one of the most comprehensive
41 and consistent accountability systems; and

42 WHEREAS, his uncompromising commitment to the children of
43 Mississippi has resulted in significant advancements in public
44 education; and

45 WHEREAS, he is married to the former Peggy Hopkins and is
46 father to Tara Elizabeth Thompson and Whitney Dianne Thompson; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the service
48 of this state education leader who has brought honor to public
49 education, his profession and to the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Dr. Richard L. Thompson,
52 State Superintendent of Education, for his many years of service
53 to the State of Mississippi, on the occasion of his departure, and
54 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Senate in his
55 future endeavors.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 Dr. Richard L. Thompson and be forwarded to the State Board of
58 Education, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.