

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Simmons  
(12th), Horhn, Simmons (13th), Watson,  
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 603

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE AWARD-WINNING CAREER  
2 OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY "SONIC BOOM OF THE SOUTH" LONGTIME  
3 BAND DIRECTOR DOWELL TAYLOR.

4 WHEREAS, in honor of Black History Month, we join the Music  
5 Educators of Mississippi in recognizing the outstanding career of  
6 Band Director Dowell Taylor; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Dowell Taylor, a native of Jackson, Mississippi,  
8 is a graduate of Callaway High School. He also attended Jackson  
9 State University, receiving the Bachelor and Master of Music  
10 Education Degrees. Mr. Taylor participated in the Jackson State  
11 University (JSU) "Sonic Boom of the South" Marching Band Tuba  
12 Section; and during his undergraduate years, he arranged more than  
13 100 band selections, including the current JSU theme song "Get  
14 Ready," originally arranged by John Paul Jones. In 1975, he  
15 received the highest award a Bandsman could receive: the "Best  
16 All-Around Bandsman" Award; and

17 WHEREAS, after graduating from JSU, Mr. Taylor served as  
18 Director of Bands at Mary Holmes Junior College, West Point



19 Mississippi; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky (where  
20 he served as Department Chair); and from 1984-1992, as Director of  
21 Bands at Jackson State University conducting both the Symphonic  
22 and Marching Bands. During this period, the famous JSU "Sonic  
23 Boom of the South" Marching Band received numerous awards and  
24 citations, including national coverage in *Jet Magazine*, the  
25 *Christian Science Monitor*, and *People Magazine*. The band was also  
26 featured as "Special Guest Band of Honor" at the St. Petersburg,  
27 Florida, Martin Luther King Battle of Bands; the 1991 NBA All-Star  
28 Basketball Game, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Motown's 30th  
29 Anniversary Celebration in Hollywood, California, in 1990. One of  
30 Mr. Taylor's most notable performances with the JSU Symphonic Band  
31 was in 1987, featuring Dr. Karen Laubengayer, Pianist and  
32 Professor of Music at JSU, performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody  
33 in Blue," adapted for the band by Mr. Taylor; and

34 WHEREAS, during his retirement from the band field, Mr.  
35 Taylor received certification in Music Technology from the  
36 Technology Institute for Music Educators (TIME) in Pasadena,  
37 California; served as a Grant Evaluator for the Department of  
38 Education, Washington, D.C.; Music Director for the Mississippi  
39 Diversity and Majesty Awards Ceremony; Computer Literacy  
40 Instructor for a federally funded "Prevention Intervention"  
41 After-School Program; a Web Designer; and Minister of  
42 Music/Organist at the Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church,  
43 Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Taylor has been featured as Guest



44 Conductor with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra presenting  
45 Richard Smallwood's "Total Praise" and regularly performs on  
46 keyboard with his Jazz Trio and Quartet. He also performed at the  
47 National Black Caucus Reception in Washington, D.C., and his  
48 Gospel Choir performed for Governor Ray Mabus' Inauguration  
49 Ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2009, he developed an  
50 undergraduate degree program in Music Technology at Jackson State,  
51 which recently received accreditation from the National  
52 Association of Schools of Music (NASM); and

53 WHEREAS, on April 1, 2012, after a twenty-year hiatus from  
54 the band field, Mr. Taylor accepted the appointment to the  
55 position of Interim Director of Bands, Assistant Professor of  
56 Music and Director of Music Technology at Jackson State  
57 University. In December 2012, the position was made permanent.  
58 Since his appointment, the "Sonic Boom" has been featured in  
59 numerous media outlets, including a two-page coverage of the  
60 band's preseason camp in *ESPN The Magazine*; a CNN special on the  
61 Morning Show featuring Robin Meade; The Honda Battle of the Bands  
62 Showcase of eight of the top bands in the nation; and "The  
63 American Journey," a CNN production chronicling the journey of  
64 what it takes to become a member of the famed "J5" Drum Majors.  
65 Mr. Taylor has served as Adjudicator and Clinician throughout the  
66 United States, as well as Guest Conductor for the HBCU National  
67 Consortium for Band Directors Conference, Atlanta, Georgia; the  
68 Miami, Florida, Music Festival; the Mid-Eastern Athletic



69 Conference (MEAC) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina; the Atlanta,  
70 Georgia Music Festival; the Memphis, Tennessee, Honors Band; and  
71 the Jackson Public Schools All-City High School Music Festival.  
72 In February 2013, Mr. Taylor served as an Adjudicator for the  
73 Jackson Public Schools High School Band Festival. On February 19,  
74 2013, Mr. Taylor served as Band Clinician for the Tucker High  
75 School Concert Band Program of Atlanta, Georgia; and

76 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor received the JSU Outstanding Alumnus  
77 Award in 1992. In 1998, 2000 and 2003, the Jackson Music Awards,  
78 Incorporated, named him the "Local Musician of the Year." In  
79 2008, The Dowell Taylor "Big Band," a 40-piece jazz ensemble,  
80 performed for the annual Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children's  
81 New Year's Eve Fundraiser Gala at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson,  
82 Mississippi. On December 10, 2010, the Mississippi Jazz  
83 Foundation honored Mr. Taylor for his contributions to the field  
84 of Music Education and the Jazz Music Genre; and

85 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor is a Licensed Real Estate Broker who  
86 holds membership in CMEA, MENC, CBDNA and Phi Beta Sigma  
87 Fraternity. He is also a Recording Engineer and certified Pro  
88 Tools Operator. He recently engineered four selections on the  
89 Jackson State Jazz Band's 2010 recording project, and "Images of  
90 Isabella's Dream," a composition commissioned by Belhaven  
91 University of Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson State Professor Dr.  
92 Ivan Elezovic composed "Images of Isabella's Dream." Both  
93 projects were recorded in Jackson State's recording studio. Mr.



94 Taylor has presented at national conferences, including the  
95 Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE),  
96 Orlando, Florida; "Turning Teachers On To Technology for the  
97 Twenty-First Century"; the National Black Music Caucus, Pittsburg,  
98 Pennsylvania; and "Black College Bands, Where Do We Go From Here?"  
99 On January 8, 2012, he presented the topic, "Issues Involving the  
100 Integration of Technology into the Music Curriculum" at the  
101 International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii. He is  
102 married to Dr. Vivian Taylor, and they have one son, David, a  
103 Patent and Trademark Attorney with the Department of Commerce,  
104 Washington, D.C.; and

105 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend the career of  
106 this respected Music Educator who has brought honor to his  
107 university and to the State of Mississippi:

108 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
109 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
110 we do hereby recognize the award-winning career of Jackson State  
111 University "Sonic Boom of the South" longtime Band Director Dowell  
112 Taylor; and on the occasion of Black History Month, extend our  
113 best wishes to Dowell Taylor and the Jackson State University  
114 Music Department for their many contributions to the culture of  
115 the State of Mississippi.

116 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
117 Dowell Taylor and the President of Jackson State University,



118 forwarded to Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church, and made  
119 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

