

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Caughman, Clarke,
Kirby, Hopson, Tollison, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 598

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS OF BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL QUARTERBACK
3 GARDNER MINSHEW II AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE
4 LEGISLATURE AS HE BEGINS HIS NFL CAREER.

5 WHEREAS, Gardner Minshew II has carved his own meandering
6 path from walk-on to NFL prospect; and

7 WHEREAS, Minshew attended Brandon High School in Brandon,
8 Mississippi, where he played quarterback for the Brandon Bulldogs
9 from 2011-2014. He played sparingly during his freshman year, but
10 became the starting quarterback in his sophomore year, a position
11 he kept through his senior year. During his sophomore year in
12 2012, he led the Bulldogs to the 6A Mississippi Championship game,
13 where the Bulldogs lost 23-31. Minshew led the Bulldogs to a
14 South 6A Championship his senior year in 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, Gardner was rated as a three-star prospect and the
16 70th-best pro-style quarterback in his class coming out of high
17 school by the 247Sports.com Composite, which aggregates the
18 ratings of the major recruiting services; and



19 WHEREAS, MinsheW committed to play football at Troy
20 University in December 2014. He graduated from high school early
21 and attended school at Troy on an academic scholarship for a
22 semester before deciding to transfer to Northwest Mississippi
23 Community College. MinsheW began his college football career in
24 2015 at Northwest Mississippi Community College. He led the team
25 to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)
26 National Football Championship, passing for 3,228 yards with a
27 60.8% completion percentage. MinsheW transferred to East Carolina
28 University in 2016 where he played in seven games while starting
29 two at QB for the Pirates. In 2017, he split time with Duke
30 University transfer Thomas Sirk as East Carolina's quarterback.
31 MinsheW began to show his talents late in the season by passing
32 for over 350 yards in three consecutive games (463 yards and three
33 touchdowns against Houston, 444 yards and four touchdowns against
34 Cincinnati and 351 yards against Memphis). MinsheW finished the
35 year with 2,140 yards passing and 16 touchdowns for the Pirates.
36 MinsheW received his Bachelor's Degree from East Carolina
37 University in December 2017; and

38 WHEREAS, MinsheW enrolled as a graduate student at Washington
39 State in the fall of 2018. He became immediately eligible under
40 the NCAA's graduate transfer rules. MinsheW helped lead
41 Washington State to a school record-breaking 11 wins in 2018. In
42 his third game as the school's starting quarterback, he passed for
43 a career high and school record of 470 yards and a 78.9%



44 completion rate in a 59-24 victory over Eastern Washington. On
45 November 17, he again broke school records with 473 passing yards
46 and seven passing touchdowns against Arizona. At the end of the
47 2018 regular season, Minshew led FBS in pass completions (433),
48 pass attempts (613), passing yards per game (367.6), was second in
49 passing yards (4,477) and finished in the Top Five with 38
50 touchdowns. During Washington State's Alamo Bowl win over Iowa
51 State, Minshew claimed the Pac-12 single-season record for most
52 passing yards, a record previously held by Jared Goff; and

53 WHEREAS, Gardner Minshew was awarded the Johnny Unitas Golden
54 Arm Award as the nation's top-senior quarterback. He was named
55 the Pac-12 "Offensive Player of the Year" for 2018, joining Rueben
56 Mayes (1984 and 1985), Steve Broussard (1989), Drew Bledsoe
57 (1992), Ryan Leaf (1997), and Jason Gesser (2002) as the only
58 Washington State offensive players to win the award since it began
59 in 1975. Minshew finished fifth in voting for the Heisman Trophy,
60 becoming the ninth player in Washington State history to place in
61 the Top 10 for the award, and the highest WSU finisher since Ryan
62 Leaf, who was third in Heisman voting in 1997; and

63 WHEREAS, in 2018, Gardner achieved the following:

- 64 • Led the country in passing (367.6/game;
65 • Second in the country in passing yards (4,779) and total
66 offense (376.8/game;
67 • Fourth in the country in touchdown passes (38);



- 68 • Pac-12 Conference and Washington State single-season
69 records in passing yards (4,779) and completions (468);
- 70 • WSU single-season record for total offense (4,898), tied
71 WSU single-season record for passing touchdowns (38);
- 72 • Only player in the country with six 400-yard games and 11
73 300-yard games;
- 74 • Finalist for Walter Camp Player of the Year, Davey O'Brien
75 Award (nation's top quarterback) and Lombardi Award;
- 76 • Semifinalist for Maxwell Award (College Player of the
77 Year);
- 78 • Three 4th-quarter game-winning drives (Utah, at Stanford,
79 California);
- 80 • Manning Award National Quarterback of the Week and The
81 Rose Bowl Pac-12 Player of the Week after throwing for 430 yards
82 and five touchdowns at Oregon State;
- 83 • Maxwell National Player of the Week and The Rose Bowl
84 Pac-12 Player of the Week after throwing for 323 yards and four
85 touchdowns against Oregon;
- 86 • WSU single-game record and tied Pac-12 regulation record
87 with seven touchdown passes against Arizona;
- 88 • Alamo Bowl Offensive MVP after throwing for 299 yards with
89 two touchdown passes and one rushing touchdown in the win over
90 Iowa State; and

91 WHEREAS, Gardner Minshew was a regarded-enough grad transfer
92 that Alabama had just about locked him up before Mike Leach gave



93 him a phone call about the spot at Washington State. Minshew is
94 also fantastic at getting the ball out quickly in Leach's classic,
95 fast-hitting schemes. Finally, he is good at extending plays with
96 his legs, when the finely-tuned machine doesn't create a clean
97 look. Minshew has proved highly accurate in throwing to different
98 parts of the field and quickly scanning through progressions; and

99 WHEREAS, now Gardner Minshew is auditioning for NFL teams and
100 figures they will all ask about his circuitous journey. "It was
101 different, that's for sure," Minshew said. "Definitely not how
102 most people do it. You just learn so much as you go through all
103 these different experiences"; and

104 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we note the record and
105 accomplishments of a Mississippi athlete whose college career has
106 brought honor to his home school, his home community and to the
107 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 college football accomplishments and
111 awards of Brandon High School Quarterback Gardner Minshew II and
112 extending the best wishes of the Legislature as he begins his NFL
113 career.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
115 Gardner Minshew II and his family, and made available to the
116 Capitol Press Corps.

