

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Barnett, Blount,
Jackson (11th), Seymour, Thompson

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LANDMARK PROFESSIONAL SPORTING
2 EVENT BY BILOXI NATIVE AND NASHVILLE PREDATORS FORWARD MATHIEU
3 OLIVIER AS HE SCORED THE FIRST NHL GOAL BY A PLAYER BORN IN
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, on February 1, 2021, Mathieu Olivier made
6 Mississippi sports history. The Nashville Predators forward
7 scored a goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning, which was the first
8 on the NHL's goal scoring list for players born in Mississippi;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mathieu Olivier was born in Biloxi, Mississippi,
11 while his father, Simon, was playing for the Mississippi Sea
12 Wolves of the East Coast Hockey League. Olivier is believed to be
13 the first player born in Mississippi to play in the NHL; and

14 WHEREAS, Mathieu Olivier got his first taste of NHL action
15 last season, and now he is hoping for more. The physical,
16 6-foot-2, 215-pound winger is entering the second season of his
17 two-year, entry-level deal, and Olivier was called upon to bring
18 some snarl to the Nashville lineup in 2019-2020, when he skated in
19 his first eight career NHL games; and



20 WHEREAS, never drafted, Olivier made an impression while
21 attending Predators Rookie Camp in 2018, and he earned his Preds
22 contract after succeeding with Milwaukee of the AHL. Olivier
23 spent the majority of his previous campaign with the Admirals as
24 well, posting 10 goals, 19 points and 95 penalty minutes in 56
25 games for last season's best AHL team. The 23-year-old remains on
26 Nashville's radar again, and he could be called upon if the Preds
27 are in search of another physical presence up front; and

28 WHEREAS, the Nashville Predators forward was penalized two
29 minutes in the penalty box with 6 minutes, 33 seconds remaining in
30 the third period for roughing during his team's February 1st 4-3
31 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning. Moments earlier, Olivier's face
32 absorbed a high stick, leaving him in a heap on the ice a few feet
33 in front of the Lightning goal. The soon-to-be 24-year-old
34 gathered himself soon after and rose to his feet when the puck
35 bounced his way. All of this happened less than seven minutes
36 after Olivier shot to first on the NHL's goal scoring list for
37 players born in Mississippi when he scored his first career goal.
38 "It is definitely a big step in my career," Olivier said of the
39 goal. "Getting the first goal is always special"; and

40 WHEREAS, Olivier's style has impressed Coach John Hynes, who
41 said, "He plays the game really hard. Plays with grit. He is not
42 afraid to hit. Not afraid to use his 6-foot-2, 210-pound frame.
43 He is fast. He is physical. He keeps plays alive. In the
44 offensive zone, he gets into hard areas and he has ability to



45 score because he uses his skill set the right way." In other
46 words, he fits the mold of the type of player Hynes has been
47 preaching his team needs, a player with mental fortitude,
48 confidence and physical toughness; and

49 WHEREAS, Olivier was tied for 14th in the AHL in penalty
50 minutes last season with 95. He tied for the AHL lead in fighting
51 majors with nine as a rookie in 2017-2018, and he scored the
52 game-winning goal in Game 3 of Milwaukee's first round series vs.
53 Iowa, the team's first playoff win since 2013, while amassing 16
54 penalty minutes in five Calder cup Playoff contests. Olivier spent
55 five seasons in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League from
56 2013-2018, tallying 130 points (59g-71a) and 390 penalty minutes
57 in 300 career games with Moncton, Shawinigan and Sherbrooke; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend a young NHL
59 rising star who has brought honor to his native community and to
60 the State of Mississippi:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the landmark professional
63 sporting event by Biloxi native and Nashville Predators Forward
64 Mathieu Olivier as he scored the first NHL goal by a player born
65 in Mississippi, and extend to him our best wishes for future
66 sports and career success.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
68 Mathieu Olivier and his family, forwarded to the Nashville



69 Predator's corporate office and the Mississippi Sports Hall of
70 Fame, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

