

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., AND
 2 ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC., FOR THEIR EXTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE,
 3 AND RECOGNIZING THAT MARCH 23, 2021, IS "PHI BETA SIGMA
 4 FRATERNITY, INC., AND ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC., DAY IN
 5 MISSISSIPPI."

6 WHEREAS, with many exceptional members in both Phi Beta Sigma
 7 Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., who have made
 8 tremendous contributions to the betterment of society through
 9 their unparalleled philanthropic contributions, these prestigious
 10 organizations have become model charitable and civic associations
 11 within the State of Mississippi and across the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., was founded at
 13 Howard University in Washington, D.C., on January 9, 1914, by
 14 three distinguished, young African-American male students: the
 15 Honorable A. Langston Taylor, the Honorable Leonard F. Morse and
 16 the Honorable Charles I. Brown, who wanted to organize a Greek
 17 letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of
 18 brotherhood, scholarship and service, which are the principles



19 exhibited by the fraternity motto, "Culture for Service and
20 Service for Humanity"; and

21 WHEREAS, desiring to create an organization that viewed
22 itself as "a part of" the general community rather than "apart
23 from" the general community, the founders believed that each
24 potential member should be judged by his own merits, rather than
25 his family background or affluence, without regard to race,
26 nationality, skin tone or texture of his hair, and they intended
27 for their fraternity to exist as part of an even greater
28 brotherhood which would be devoted to the "inclusive we," rather
29 than the "exclusive we"; and

30 WHEREAS, from its inception, the founders conceived Phi Beta
31 Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community,
32 and rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for
33 themselves and their immediate families, they held a deep
34 conviction to return their newly acquired skills to the
35 communities from which they had come; and

36 WHEREAS, on November 21, 1927, the first chapter of Sigma,
37 the Alpha Beta Chapter, was established in the State of
38 Mississippi, on the campus of Jackson College, which was later
39 renamed Jackson State University, and 11 years later in 1938, the
40 first alumni chapter, Mu Sigma, was chartered; and

41 WHEREAS, Mississippi is part of the cluster of states under
42 the Southern Region of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which is
43 currently the largest region in the fraternity with over 3,000



44 financial members, and is comprised of four states and one
45 province: Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and the Islands
46 of the Bahamas; and

47 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has 28 financial chapters,
48 10 Collegiate and 18 Alumni/Graduate, and is home to seven Sigma
49 Beta Clubs, which serve as the fraternity's youth organization,
50 geared towards meeting the needs of its members, and providing
51 them with a well-rounded outlook that is needed to cope with
52 today's society, because investing in our youth today will produce
53 effective leaders of tomorrow; and

54 WHEREAS, Mississippi is home of the current International
55 President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the Honorable
56 Brother Micheal E. Cristal, a native of Grenada, Mississippi, and
57 the current Southern Regional Director is Dr. Eric Farmer, and
58 Brother Sedric Scott serves as the current Mississippi State
59 Director; and

60 WHEREAS, the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma are the fraternity's
61 most valuable resource and strength, and are the primary means by
62 which the Phi Beta Sigma objectives will be achieved, and in order
63 to accomplish the fraternity's objectives, it is essential that
64 systems are instituted that effectively embody "Culture For
65 Service and Service For Humanity" and promote brotherhood,
66 scholarship and service; and

67 WHEREAS, in the spring of 1919, Mr. Charles Robert Samuel
68 Taylor, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, shared with Ms. Arizona



69 Cleaver, a student at Howard University, his idea for a new
70 sisterhood that would be a sister-organization to his fraternity.
71 Ms. Cleaver presented this idea to 14 other Howard University
72 women; and

73 WHEREAS, with the help of Mr. Taylor and one of Phi Beta
74 Sigma's founders, Mr. A. Langston Taylor, work began to establish
75 the new sorority, culminating in the founding of Zeta Phi Beta
76 Sorority, Inc., on January 16, 1920, by five phenomenal women at
77 Howard University in Washington, D.C.: the Honorable Arizona
78 Cleaver Stemons, the Honorable Pearl Anna Neal, the Honorable
79 Myrtle Tyler Faithful, the Honorable Viola Tyler Goings and the
80 Honorable Fannie Pettie Watts; and

81 WHEREAS, with permission from the Howard University
82 administration, the sorority held its first official meeting on
83 January 16, 1920, and the five founders chose the name Zeta Phi
84 Beta Sorority, Inc., with the similar names of both Sigma and Zeta
85 being intentional in nature as the ladies adopted the Greek
86 letters "Phi" and "Beta" to seal and signify the relationship
87 between the two organizations; and

88 WHEREAS, these five extraordinary women dared to depart from
89 the traditional coalitions for African-American women, and sought
90 to establish a new organization predicated on the precepts of
91 scholarship, service, sisterhood and finer womanhood, envisioning
92 a sorority that would directly affect positive change, chart a
93 course of action for the 1920s and beyond, raise the consciousness



94 of their people, encourage the highest standards of academic
95 achievement, and foster a greater sense of unity among its
96 members; and

97 WHEREAS, it was the idea of the founders that the sorority
98 would reach college women in all parts of the country who were
99 sorority-minded and desired to follow the founding principles of
100 the organization; and

101 WHEREAS, eighteen years after its inception, in 1938, the
102 Zeta's principles reached the hearts and souls of Finer Women in
103 Mississippi, and with the help of the Southern Regional Director,
104 Lullelia Harrison, and Pauline Allen Davis of Memphis, Tennessee,
105 the first Zeta Chapter was established in Mississippi, the Alpha
106 Delta Zeta Chapter, and was chartered on October 14, 1938, at 723
107 Rose Street in Jackson, Mississippi; and

108 WHEREAS, Mississippi is part of the South Central Region of
109 the Zeta International Organizational Structure, and is comprised
110 of four states: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee; and

111 WHEREAS, appointed by the International President, Kathy R.
112 Tatum is the Regional Director of the South Central Region, and
113 each state has a director who is also appointed by the
114 International President, with the 17th Mississippi State Director
115 being Portia Ellis; and

116 WHEREAS, since chartering the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter in
117 1938, the State of Mississippi has grown to become the largest
118 state in the South Central Region, and among the largest in Zeta



119 Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., historically amassing over 1,400
120 financial members statewide and hundreds of members in the youth
121 and adult auxiliaries; and

122 WHEREAS, Mississippi Zeta Chapters include collegiate and
123 graduate members, Friends of Zeta, called Amicae, Youth
124 Auxiliaries that are established to mentor and train girls ages 4
125 through 18 and the Zeta Male Network; and

126 WHEREAS, Mississippi has become a source of information and
127 inspiration for other states, regions and national leadership, and
128 is among the first 20 states in the organization's national
129 history to have chartered chapters, with over 48 Zeta Chapters
130 across 82 counties, including 11 undergraduate chapters, with the
131 first undergraduate chapter to the charter being the Zeta Chapter
132 in 1945, at Alcorn State University; and

133 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., continues to achieve
134 its mission by providing an extensive array of service through the
135 sorority's numerous programs, such as the endowment of its
136 National Educational Foundation, the Elder Care Initiative, Zeta
137 Prematurity Awareness Program and Adopt a School; and

138 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., State of Mississippi,
139 and its auxiliaries have been able to support and provide service
140 to citizens in the Magnolia State through its National Service
141 Program called ZHOPE (Zetas Helping Other People Excel), which is
142 an interactive, holistic, multidimensional outreach program
143 designed to enhance, cultivate and empower participants to develop



144 health-promoting lifestyle choices across each lifespan, focusing
145 on specific population groups including women, youth, seniors, men
146 and international women of color; and

147 WHEREAS, over the past 82 years in Mississippi, this
148 exceptional organization's community service impact can be seen in
149 over 100,000 service hours given to many of its outreach programs,
150 including the Zeta Stork's Nest, which is a partnership between
151 Zeta Phi Beta and March of Dimes that is a community-based
152 prenatal health promotion program for low-income pregnant women.
153 The State of Mississippi has three Stork's Nest programs: Alpha
154 Delta Zeta Chapter of Jackson, Mississippi; Zeta Psi Zeta Chapter
155 of Clarksdale, Mississippi; and Psi Beta Zeta Chapter of
156 Southaven, Mississippi, and since the partnership with the March
157 of Dimes, African-American babies' low birth rate has declined;
158 and

159 WHEREAS, in addition to its other numerous programs and
160 community service initiatives, and in line with the principle of
161 scholarship, Mississippi Zetas support scholarships to youth
162 through its annual scholarship program and the Zeta National
163 Scholarship Programs; and

164 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta
165 Sorority, Inc., are the only National Pan-Hellenic Council
166 organizations that can claim an authentic brother-sister
167 association through a constitutional bond, which allows both
168 organizations to work closely together as they attempt to



169 materialize what their founders envisioned through a deep and
170 abiding dedication to enhancing and promoting systematic
171 fellowship, African-American self determination, justice, equal
172 rights and service to all humankind; and

173 WHEREAS, since their respective foundings, the esteemed men
174 of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the dynamic women of Zeta
175 Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., have played a vital role in our nation's
176 illustrious history, and there are numerous accomplished
177 individuals in each organization who are recognized as leaders in
178 our society; and

179 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and honor
180 these charitable and civic organizations whose dedication for
181 serving others brings honor to the State of Mississippi:

182 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
183 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,
184 Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their extensive public
185 service, and recognize that March 23, 2021, is "Phi Beta Sigma
186 Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Day in
187 Mississippi."

188 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
189 members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta
190 Sorority, Inc., and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

