

By: Representative Currie

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER
 2 AND MERITORIOUS LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF MR. JAMES A. BARBER,
 3 FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
 4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW (PEER), AND HIS
 5 CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI AND THE
 6 FIELD OF PROGRAM EVALUATION UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

7 WHEREAS, Mr. James A. Barber served as Executive Director of
 8 the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and
 9 Expenditure Review (PEER) from July 1, 2015, to September 30,
 10 2021, having established a remarkable career of exemplary
 11 leadership and service to the State of Mississippi; and

12 WHEREAS, born and raised in Columbia, Mississippi, Mr. Barber
 13 completed his formal education as a 1973 graduate of Columbia High
 14 School before embarking upon his postsecondary matriculation at
 15 the University of Southern Mississippi, from which he received
 16 both bachelor and master of business administration degrees in
 17 1976 and 1977, respectively; and

18 WHEREAS, upon completion of his graduate studies, he was
 19 hired as a Staff Analyst with the PEER Committee in April 1978,
 20 thus pinning the first chapter of what would evolve into a long



21 and distinguished career with the government oversight
22 organization, marked by increasing responsibilities which resulted
23 in his appointment as executive director in July 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, during his years with the PEER staff, Mr. Barber
25 remained an active participant in the programs and committees of
26 the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), serving as a
27 member of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society's
28 (NLPES) Executive Committee twice, including service as the Chair
29 of the Executive Committee in 2000 and 2009. Additionally, he
30 served as the editor of the NLPES newsletter from 2001 to 2010;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, additionally Barber also served on the NCSL
33 Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee from 2008 to 2010, and as
34 a member of the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee from 2015
35 to 2018; and

36 WHEREAS, during his tenure as executive director, the PEER
37 Committee issued 70 committee reports on various aspects of state
38 and local government operations, many of which stand out as some
39 of Mr. Barber's most notable achievements in legislative oversight
40 and program evaluation as they have received recognition from the
41 NLPES for having significant impact on Mississippi's public
42 policy, including: "An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the
43 Mississippi Film Office" (December 15, 2015); "State Government
44 Purchasing: A Review of Recent Statutory Changes and Case Study"
45 (September 19, 2017); "Management of Mississippi's State-Owned



46 Vehicles, Data Quality, the Control Environment and Recent
47 Statutory Changes" (November 11, 2017); "A Review of the Jackson
48 Convention and Visitors' Bureau" (November 27, 2018); and "A
49 Statutory Review of Mississippi's Education Savings Account
50 Program" (December 11, 2018); and

51 WHEREAS, during Mr. Barber's directorship, PEER also
52 performed a valuable service to the Legislature in the production
53 of legislative assistance, issuing 531 legislative assistance
54 memorandums, as well as 318 background checks for the Senate and
55 serving as the impetus thinktank behind some of the significant
56 legislative assistance produced by PEER, including the extensive
57 research and drafting assistance on what would become the "Alyce
58 G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law," adopted in 2018; and

59 WHEREAS, a selfless people's servant, Mr. Barber often made
60 himself available to lecture on both public administration and the
61 functions of PEER, in the form of presentations to newly elected
62 legislators, graduate-level academic lectures, and meetings of
63 peers at NCSL; and

64 WHEREAS, Barber's expertise and wealth of knowledge afforded
65 him the opportunity to serve, for many years, as a faculty member
66 in the Certified Public Manager Program administered in
67 Mississippi through the State Personnel Board, where he conducted
68 trainings for aspiring public managers on working with legislators
69 and legislative committees; and



70 WHEREAS, Mr. Barber was often engaged by other legislative
71 oversight organizations to conduct in-depth peer reviews of their
72 work product to assist them in implementing evaluation practices
73 that ensure the production of accurate, high-quality reports and
74 reviews; and

75 WHEREAS, during his years of service with PEER, Mr. James
76 Barber proved to be a highly capable and versatile analyst who was
77 at home dealing with issues in evaluation and auditing of all
78 levels of complexity; and

79 WHEREAS, Mr. Barber was a valued co-worker, tireless leader
80 and exceptional public servant who served the Mississippi
81 Legislature and the State of Mississippi with dignity and
82 integrity for over 43 years; and

83 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
84 and commend the steadfast devotion to the betterment of
85 Mississippi and honor the zealous vow of impeccable public service
86 that James A. Barber bestowed upon the citizens of Mississippi as
87 the Executive Director of the Joint Legislative Committee on
88 Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
90 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
91 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the distinguished career and
92 meritorious leadership and service of Mr. James A. Barber upon the
93 occasion of his retirement as the Executive Director of the Joint
94 Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure



95 Review and extend most sincere wishes for continued success and
96 joy in the lighter days ahead.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
98 furnished to Mr. James A. Barber and to the members of the Capitol
99 Press Corps.

