

By: Representatives Scott, Stamps

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE
2 JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY "TIGERS" FOOTBALL TEAM, HEAD COACH DEION
3 SANDERS AND THE "TIGERS" COACHING STAFF UPON WINNING THEIR SECOND
4 CONSECUTIVE SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (SWAC) CHAMPIONSHIP
5 UPON BECOMING THE 2022 SWAC CHAMPIONS, AND RECOGNIZING JACKSON
6 STATE UNIVERSITY'S CONTINUAL FULFILLMENT OF ITS VISION STATEMENT
7 OF BUILDING UPON ITS HISTORIC MISSION OF PROMOTING AND EMPOWERING
8 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AMONG ITS SCHOLARS AND SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
9 THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTI-MODAL COLLABORATIVE LEARNING.

10 WHEREAS, the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football Team,
11 led by "Coach Prime" Deion Sanders and an equally exceptional
12 coaching staff, reigned supreme during the 2022 season, laying
13 claim to its second consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference
14 (SWAC) Championship, the Tigers' first back-to-back SWAC titles
15 since 1995-1996; and

16 WHEREAS, after initially clinching the SWAC Championship
17 during the 2021 gridiron season for the first time since 2007 with
18 the university's first 11-win season in school history, the 2022
19 Tigers one upped their previous season, breaking their own record
20 by going a perfect 12-0 on the regular season, and 8-0 in
21 conference division play; and



22 WHEREAS, the Tigers, who had a superior season that was
23 driven by more than just the yearning to succeed, intensely
24 amplified all of their hard work, motivation and audacity, which
25 were so apparent all through the season, for the game that
26 ultimately separated the gladiators from the civilians, to defeat
27 Southern University 43-24 at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium
28 in Jackson, Mississippi, on December 3, 2022, before an exuberant
29 crowd of 53,754 enthusiastic spectators, and collect the program's
30 18th SWAC Football Championship, which also berthed the team's
31 second consecutive bowl appearance at the Cricket Celebration
32 Bowl; and

33 WHEREAS, striving all season long to be the best football
34 program in the state, Jackson State University put aside the
35 excitement, fanfare and attention to focus on the championship
36 game and prepare as they had throughout the season, and that
37 strategy, along with the monumental support from the entire
38 community, which evidenced its devoted belief in "Thee I Love"
39 through record breaking game attendance that amassed approximately
40 501,000 fans throughout the 2022 season of competition, and which
41 further helped solidify the Tigers' ascent to championship status;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, bursting with wit and athleticism, the Jackson State
44 University Tigers Football Team's mental stamina and determination
45 never waivered from the moment they ran onto the field until the
46 last down was played scoring 490 points on the season, while only



47 yielding 176 points to their formidable opponents, for an average
48 of approximately 37.7 points per game; and

49 WHEREAS, during the championship game that kept fans in a
50 fully immersive experience for the entire 60 minutes of
51 electrifying play, the game's opening 11 minutes set the tone for
52 what was to follow in the next three quarters as the nation's top
53 ranked defense forced three turnovers, made two sacks and
54 following a three-and-out forced by the JSU defense, the Tigers'
55 offense drove 61 yards in nine plays, as freshman kicker,
56 Alejandro Mata's 22-yard field goal gave Jackson State a 3-0 lead;
57 and

58 WHEREAS, the interception and 37-yard return of a Southern
59 pass by Herman Smith III positioned the Tigers at the Jaguar's
60 one-yard line, which made for an effortless one-yard touchdown run
61 by Sy'Veon Wilkerson two plays later, followed by a PAT kick that
62 gave Jackson State a 10-0 lead with 8:26 to play in the first
63 quarter; and

64 WHEREAS, On the ensuing possession, linebacker Aubrey Miller
65 Jr.'s sack and forced fumble was recovered by Antonio Doyle, Jr.,
66 at the Southern 14-yard line, which afforded quarterback Shedeur
67 Sanders prime opportunity to capitalize on the next play, by
68 firing a 14-yard touchdown pass to Shane Hooks, and Kevin
69 Coleman's two-point conversion pass catapulted the Tigers to an
70 18-0 lead with 6:35 remaining in the first quarter; and



71 WHEREAS, Jackson State made its third takeaway on the next
72 Southern drive as Baron Hopson's sack and forced fumble was
73 recovered by Justin Ragin at the JSU 42-yard line, allowing the
74 Tigers to find the end zone once again as Sanders and Hooks
75 connected on a 40-yard scoring pass, and echoed with a
76 Sanders-to-Coleman two-point conversion pass, which gave JSU a
77 26-0 advantage over Southern with 3:51 to play in the opening
78 period; and

79 WHEREAS, an early score by Southern in the second quarter
80 only fueled JSU's fire, compelling the Tigers to respond on its
81 fifth straight possession with a seven-play, 85-yard drive, which
82 resulted in a 14-yard scoring pass from Sanders to Coleman, and
83 Mata's PAT boosting the Tigers to a 33-7 lead with 11:25 to play
84 in the first half; and

85 WHEREAS, after Southern managed to close the gap in the third
86 quarter, the Tigers, on the prowl, pounced once again to put the
87 game away for good, as Sanders threw his fourth touchdown pass of
88 the game, a nine-yard strike to Rico Powers late in the period for
89 the final margin, yielding the Tigers a 43-24 victory over the
90 Jaguars, a staunch reminder why tigers are the "true" kings of the
91 jungle; and

92 WHEREAS, while the old saying goes, "defense wins
93 championships," it certainly held true during the championship
94 game, as the Tigers' defense erected an impenetrable stone wall
95 that showcased the tactical prowess, stamina and skillsets that



96 are inherent characteristics to the apex predator for which they
97 are named; and

98 WHEREAS, the Tigers, who played with nothing but heart and
99 soul all season, have a very talented and distinguished roster,
100 and each player made a substantial contribution that led to one of
101 the most historic seasons in the history of the Tigers football
102 program, including: J.P. Andrade, Khalil Arrington, Gerardo
103 Baeza, Kejuan Barbee, Jackson Barry, Tayvion Beasley, Elliot
104 Blackmon, Isaiah Bolden, Zachary Breaux, Jeremiah Brown, Tyler
105 Brown, Alvin Brumfield, Kris Cassel, Kevin Coleman, Jr., Dallas
106 Daniels, Devonta Davis, Jelani Davis, Jurriente Davis, Quaydarius
107 Davis, Norman Douglas, Jr., Antonio Doyle, Jr., Daelyn Dunn,
108 Frankie Dunn, Kirk Ford, Jasper Friis, Nyles Gaddy, Willie Gaines,
109 Charlton Goodell, Deontae Graham, Timontre Graham, Gregory Grate,
110 Hayden Hagler, Aarion Hartman, Devin Hayes, Evan Henry, Shane
111 Hooks, Baron Hopson, John Huggins, Jalin Hughes, Jacob Humphrey,
112 Andre Hunt, Donavan Hunt, Travis Hunter, Marquis Johnson, Sam
113 Johnson, Caleb Jolivette, Demetri Jordan, Josiah Laban, Santee
114 Marshall, J.D. Martin, Alejandro Mata, Emari Matthews, Kevin May,
115 Lane McGregor, Jason Mercier, Aubrey Miller, Jr., Glenn Misiak,
116 King Mwikuta, Willis Patrick, Dazerick Patton, Kobe Paul, Jacob
117 Politte, Rico Powers, Justin Ragin, Julius Reynolds, Matthew
118 Ricciardi-Vitale, Tre'von Riggins, Jency Riley, Trevonte Rucker,
119 Delano Salgado, Shedeur Sanders, Shilo Sanders, Tayari Sherwood,
120 Trace Shumans, Cam'Ron Silmon-Craig, Errick Simmons, Christopher



121 Smith, Julian Smith, Herman Smith III, D.J. Stevens, David
122 Studstill, Reginald Swinton, Greyson Thompson, Michael Thompson,
123 Tru Thompson, Donald Turley, Kaseem Vauls, Zyon Walker, Amari
124 Ward, De'Jahn Warren, J.J. Weeks, Malachi Wideman, Ke'Vric
125 Wiggins, Jr., Sy'veon Wilkerson and Jeremiah Williams; and

126 WHEREAS, the team's statistics were impressive this season,
127 and there were outstanding performances by individual players, but
128 the key to the team's remarkable success has been the constant
129 atmosphere of unity and year-round hard work by the following
130 talented 19 student-athletes who were named to all-conference
131 teams as All-SWAC honorees, including: first-team recipients,
132 Shedeur Sanders, Aubrey Miller, Jr., Dallas Daniels, Shane Hooks,
133 Willis Patrick, Tyler Brown, Cam'ron Silmon-Craig and Alejandro
134 Mata; second-team recipients, Travis Hunter, Sy'Veon Wilkerson,
135 D.J. Stevens, Devin Hayes, Justin Ragin, Nyles Gaddy, Shilo
136 Sanders and Isaiah Bolden; third-team recipients, Jurriente Davis
137 and John Huggins; fourth-team recipient, Jacob Politte; in
138 addition to Shedeur Sanders being named Offensive Player of the
139 Year, Aubrey Miller, Jr., being named Defensive Player of the
140 Year, and Kevin Coleman, Jr., being named Freshman of the Year;

141 WHEREAS, Head Coach Deion Sanders, who doubled up on being
142 named SWAC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year,
143 along with an elite coaching staff who are personally vested in
144 the academic and athletic success of each player, have superbly
145 coached and tremendously inspired the Tigers and broadened their



146 knowledge of the game while refining their skills in execution,
147 and he continues to build upon the legacy of superior play and
148 true sportsmanship forged by the tenacious and undaunted spirit of
149 each team member, as evidenced in his ability to produce high
150 caliber players and plays and by the team's successful season; and

151 WHEREAS, the level of accountability to which each player is
152 held has manifested a culture of success that has become
153 demonstrative both on and off the field, and not only with the
154 football team, but through the entire Tigers' athletics program,
155 which leads the Southwestern Athletic Conference, and the state of
156 Mississippi in the latest NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR)
157 report announced in November, posting an overall GSR of 90%, the
158 highest in the SWAC, and tied with Ole Miss and Mississippi State
159 for the highest in the state; and

160 WHEREAS, despite the challenges of the pandemic and endemic
161 water and infrastructure woes, JSU's student-athletes, staff and
162 coaches remained steadfast in their focus on the academic mission
163 of becoming champions in the classroom first, which has enabled
164 them to continually excel in all aspects of the collegiate
165 experience, which in turn further impacts their posture for their
166 individual career successes moving forward, as more than 150
167 student-athletes attained at least a 3.0 grade-point average, with
168 35 student-athletes with a 4.0 GPA, and a collective 3.101 grade
169 point average in the Fall 2022 semester, which produced 28
170 graduates; and



171 WHEREAS, building on its historic mission of empowering a
172 culturally diverse cohort of students to become leaders, Jackson
173 State University has become recognized as a challenging, yet
174 nurturing, state-of-the-art technologically-infused intellectual
175 community that promotes student and faculty engagement in creative
176 research, participation in interdisciplinary and
177 multi-instructional/organizational collaborative learning teams,
178 while serving the global community; and

179 WHEREAS, the symphony of diversity and inclusion that is
180 being masterfully orchestrated by the administration of Jackson
181 State University has laid the historical foundation for a student
182 body that is a beautiful tapestry of ethnicities and cultures
183 intricately woven together into a masterpiece that is
184 representative of the Mississippi we aspire daily to achieve and
185 utilize as a branding trademark to highlight the greatness and
186 limitless potential for success the Hospitality State has to
187 offer; and

188 WHEREAS, in a testament to the fulfillment of its platform of
189 diversity and inclusion JSU made history on April 5, 2022, with
190 the Sonic Boom of the South's bestowing the J5 head drum major
191 honor for the 2022-2023 season upon senior Marvin Garcia Meda, as
192 the first Hispanic head drum major after initially becoming the
193 first Hispanic student to hold a highly-coveted position as a
194 member of the energetic, high-stepping and
195 synchronously-choreographed quintet as a sophomore, and sophomore



196 Priscilla Marin, now in her second year as the first Hispanic
197 performer of the Prancing J-Settes in the institution's history,
198 both of whom are first-generation Jackson State University
199 students; and

200 WHEREAS, the beauty of Jackson State University is the
201 familial bond that was established at its 1877 founding as Natchez
202 Seminary by the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the
203 moral, religious and intellectual improvement of African
204 Americans, and which prevails in perpetuity through the
205 dauntlessly enduring commitment to those core values while
206 expanding its curriculum to meet the ambitious educational needs
207 of a progressive student body whose affinity for their beloved
208 university is entrenched in the popular ascribed alumni motto,
209 "Thee I Love," which is gleaned from the lyrics of its alma mater
210 "Jackson Fair"; and

211 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
212 and commend outstanding Mississippi student-athletes, especially
213 those such as the Jackson State University "Tigers" Football Team,
214 whose hard work and perseverance brings honor to their school,
215 their community and to the State of Mississippi:

216 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
217 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
218 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize and commend the Jackson State
219 University Tigers Football Team, Head Coach Deion Sanders and the
220 Tigers coaching staff upon winning their second consecutive



221 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship, upon
222 becoming the 2022 SWAC champions, recognizing Jackson State
223 University's continual fulfillment of its vision statement of
224 building upon its historic mission of promoting and empowering
225 diversity and inclusion among its scholars and scholar-athletes
226 through interdisciplinary and multi-modal collaborative learning,
227 and extend to them best wishes for continued success in all of
228 their future athletic, academic and career endeavors.

229 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
230 furnished to Head Coach T.C. Taylor, President Thomas K. Hudson
231 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

