

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Chassaniol,  
McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO AWARD-WINNING ART PROFESSOR BRENT FUNDERBURK AS THE  
3 RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
4 VISUAL ARTS AND EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2024 recipients, which include award-winning Art Professor Brent  
7 Funderburk as the 2024 Governor's Arts Award recipient for  
8 Excellence in Visual Arts and Education; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are  
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding  
11 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community  
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are  
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify  
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Brent Funderburk is a William L. Giles Distinguished  
16 Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University where he served  
17 as Art Department head and taught for 36 years. He has been  
18 recognized with the University's highest academic, teaching and  
19 research honors, including the Southeastern Conference Faculty



20 Excellence Award (2016), the John Grisham Teaching Award, the  
21 Ralph E. Powe Faculty Research Award, and the Burlington Northern  
22 Faculty Excellence Award, among others; and

23 WHEREAS, an artist known for his exuberantly-hued watermedia  
24 paintings as well as energetic teaching and lectures, Brent  
25 Funderburk is a Charlotte, North Carolina, native who has worked  
26 as a teacher/administrator for three universities in three states  
27 for over 40 years. From a robust life of art practice and travel,  
28 Funderburk has researched, produced, exhibited and lectured  
29 passionately, working from life and in the studio in Starkville,  
30 Mississippi. He has presented 34 one-person exhibitions across  
31 the United States, and has been represented by galleries in  
32 Jackson, Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Memphis, with work in  
33 public and private collections across the United States and  
34 abroad. His works are displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Art,  
35 Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and Memphis-Brooks Museum of Art;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Funderburk's artwork has been juried into over 100  
38 regional, national and international shows, with numerous awards,  
39 such as the International Society of Experimental Artists Award,  
40 the Holbein Artist Award, and Isabey-Savoir Faire Award, at the  
41 National Watercolor Society 100th International Open Exhibition  
42 (San Pedro, California, 2020), the Artistic Excellence Special  
43 Award I at the Missouri International Exhibition (Barcelona,  
44 Spain, St. Louis, Missouri, 2020), the Juror's Special Award and



45 Certificate of Merit at the 6th Fabriano International Prize  
46 (Fabriano, Italy, 2020), and had work that toured seven Chinese  
47 museums in the Shenzhen International Watercolor Biennial  
48 (2015-2016); and

49 WHEREAS, Brent Funderburk's work has been published widely,  
50 in national/international periodicals such as *American Artist*,  
51 *Artists Magazine*, *Creative Quarterly: The Journal of Art and*  
52 *Design*, *Studio Visit*, *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, *Southwest Art*  
53 and *Splash: The Best of Watercolor*. Funderburk's painting "One  
54 to One" was chosen as cover art for the 2022 *Splash* annual  
55 publication; and

56 WHEREAS, in 2010, Funderburk was named the Official Artist of  
57 the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi;  
58 and

59 WHEREAS, regarded for his depth of research and enthusiastic  
60 delivery, Funderburk has presented talks to over 100 museums,  
61 universities and to professional organizations across the country.  
62 He curated and lectured with the exhibition "Ecstasy - The  
63 Mystical Landscapes of Walter Anderson" that toured four U.S.  
64 museums (2008-2010) as well as spoken about Anderson in  
65 association with the Smithsonian Institute exhibit "Everything I  
66 See is New and Strange" (2003). In addition to presenting his  
67 multi-media lectures, such as "A Halcyon Day! A Day in the Life of  
68 Walter Anderson," "Deep Harvest" and "The Beathing Eye," he has  
69 presented illustrated lectures on 20th Century visionary modern



70 American artists such as Will Henry Stevens, Robert Henri and  
71 Edward Reep, subjects such as American watercolor, art and  
72 architecture, and often about his own art; and

73 WHEREAS, Funderburk has taught courses dedicated to the  
74 vision of Walter Anderson; "Sea Earth Sky" (80s), "Encounters"  
75 (90s), and "Walter Inglis Anderson and American Art" (2018), has  
76 led field classes in U.S. national parks, and has taught semester  
77 courses in Vicenza (2007) and Rome (2016), Italy; and

78 WHEREAS, the artist is married to dancer/choreographer  
79 Deborah Wyatt Funderburk, a retired university professor in Dance  
80 at Mississippi State University. They have two adult sons and  
81 reside in Starkville, Mississippi; and

82 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
83 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi artistic  
84 leader who has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the  
85 artistic traditions of our great state:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
87 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
88 Mississippi Senate to award-winning Art Professor Brent Funderburk  
89 as the recipient of the 2024 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence  
90 in Visual Arts and Education and extend our congratulations to an  
91 artistic leader on this auspicious occasion.

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
93 Brent Funderburk as part of the Governor's Arts Awards  
94 presentation and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

