

1 HJR296  
2 176872-2  
3 By Representative Gaston  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 13-APR-16

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3           COMMENDING JERRY BASSETT FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO  
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA.

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6           WHEREAS, with highest admiration and utmost  
7 appreciation, we recognize the exceptional contributions of  
8 Jerry Bassett to the Legislature of Alabama and the citizens  
9 of this state; in 1991, he assumed the role of Director of  
10 Legislative Reference Service and he has labored in that  
11 capacity until 2015, attaining the distinction of being the  
12 longest serving Director in the history of the agency; and

13           WHEREAS, Jerry Bassett's broad experiences, common  
14 sense approach, problem solving skills, forthright manner, and  
15 unquestionable integrity are invaluable attributes that are  
16 daily sought and highly prized by Leadership, Legislators,  
17 Members, Staff, and the entire legislative community; indeed,  
18 he has amassed an institutional knowledge of government that  
19 is unsurpassed and is a sui generis resource that cannot be  
20 replicated or replaced; and

21           WHEREAS, he has represented our state and the  
22 Alabama Legislature in an exceptional manner; including  
23 service on the highly respected Style Committee of the Uniform  
24 Commission on State Laws, the Council of State Government,  
25 National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Southern

1 Legislative Conference, along with many other prestigious  
2 legal and bill drafting organizations; his many accompaniments  
3 include single handedly compiling the Official Recompilation  
4 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, the nation's longest,  
5 as Code Commissioner, providing extensive oversight and  
6 improvements to the codification process, refining drafting  
7 procedures for appropriate form, clarity, and usefulness,  
8 providing in-depth opinions on essential legal questions, and  
9 judiciously shaping the nationally accepted Uniform Athlete  
10 Agents Act; and

11 WHEREAS, his intellect, analytical skills, mental  
12 agility, and adaptability are prized commodities in the highly  
13 charged public arena; his vast knowledge of the rules,  
14 processes, and legal theories of lawmaking are incomparable;  
15 contemporaries marvel at his ability to quickly locate the  
16 bottom line and map out rational solutions to the most  
17 perplexing problems, whether they be legal, political,  
18 administrative, financial, or personal; his staff is  
19 repeatedly amazed with his recollection of details and his  
20 ability to remember comparative situations from years past  
21 that others have long forgotten; and

22 WHEREAS, his devoted employees find him a demanding  
23 boss who is loyal, understanding, and generous to a fault;  
24 sometimes more grumpy than good humored, his core beliefs  
25 cannot be substituted, but are occasionally amenable to

1 amendment; his strict family first philosophy is greatly  
2 appreciated; and his colleagues are especially pleased that  
3 this stoic son of the Midwest has become a true Alabamian, few  
4 love football and barbecue more, and far too many "y'alls"  
5 have slipped into his vocabulary to be a mere lapse; and

6 WHEREAS, as he begins to gear down, as if that's  
7 possible, we wish Jerry fun-filled times with his lovely wife,  
8 Linda, and memory-making moments with his son, Chris,  
9 daughter, Anna, and especially his darling and delightful  
10 granddaughter, Andi, the only human being in the world who can  
11 place a permanent grin on his face; now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with utmost respect and  
14 highest regard, our good friend Jerry Bassett is earnestly  
15 thanked for laudable service to the Legislature of Alabama.  
16 These sentiments are fondly conveyed by copy of this  
17 resolution, accompanied by our genuine hope that his future  
18 will hold the ultimate blessings of health, happiness, and  
19 family.

