

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

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8 COMMENDING JERRY BASSETT FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO
9 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA.

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

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

26 WHEREAS, he has represented our state and the
27 Alabama Legislature in an exceptional manner; including

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

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

25 WHEREAS, his devoted employees find him a demanding
26 boss who is loyal, understanding, and generous to a fault;
27 sometimes more grumpy than good humored, his core beliefs

1 cannot be substituted, but are occasionally amenable to
2 amendment; his strict family first philosophy is greatly
3 appreciated; and his colleagues are especially pleased that
4 this stoic son of the Midwest has become a true Alabamian, few
5 love football and barbecue more, and far too many "y'alls"
6 have slipped into his vocabulary to be a mere lapse; and

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

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