

# HJR245 ENROLLED



1 HJR245  
2 66EY113-2  
3 By Representatives Garrett, Shaw, Hulsey, Hollis, Sellers,  
4 Faulkner  
5 RFD: RULES  
6 First Read: 30-Apr-24



## HJR245 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3

COMMENDING MR. ALLEN GILLESPIE FOR HIS

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PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN

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MUSIC EDUCATION ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

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WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,

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highest honors, commendations, and congratulations are

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conveyed to Mr. Desmond Allen Gillespie after a five-decade

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career that includes choral director positions with

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Birmingham City Schools, Jefferson County Schools, and

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Trussville City Schools at Wenonah High School (1973-1979),

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Huffman High School (1976-1996), Clay-Chalkville High School

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(1996-2009), and Hewitt-Trussville High School (2009-2024);

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and

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WHEREAS, beginning in 1976, Mr. Gillespie built the

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Huffman High School choral department to include four

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choirs; the Chansoniers, which is the men's ensemble; a

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Mixed Ensemble; Girls' Chorale; and the Concert Choir; by

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1996 an amazing 270 students were involved in the choral

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program; and

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WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Gillespie had the privilege of

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establishing the inaugural choral program at newly opened

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Clay-Chalkville High School where he remained until his

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first retirement in 2009; and

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WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Gillespie agreed to teach for

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Trussville City Schools at Hewitt-Trussville High School,

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where he remained 15 years; during his tenure, Trussville



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29 City Schools was selected six times as one of the Best  
30 Communities for Music Education by the National Association  
31 of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie served as President of the  
33 Alabama Choral Directors Association and the Alabama Vocal  
34 Association; under his leadership, choirs and their members  
35 have excelled at many high-profile choral events, including  
36 Alabama All-State Choral Festivals, the Alabama Music  
37 Educators Conference, and area showcases; he has directed  
38 choirs regularly to superior ratings in performance and  
39 sight reading at AVA competitions and national competitions;  
40 outside of school concerts, the choirs have performed at  
41 countless community events, professional sports events, and  
42 made numerous appearances on local television in Birmingham,  
43 Alabama; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie has also served as Choir  
45 Director at Pinson Methodist (1979-1986), St. John's United  
46 Methodist Church (1986-1991), Huffman First United Methodist  
47 (1991-Present), Director of The Miss Alabama Singers and  
48 background vocals since the 1980s, and co-director of the  
49 Trussville Community Choir; and

50 WHEREAS, in 2023, Mr. Gillespie was named the  
51 Trussville Tribune Person of the Year; and

52 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie attended and graduated from  
53 Berry High School, now Hoover High School, and went on to  
54 earn bachelor's, master's, and education specialist degrees  
55 from the University of Montevallo; and



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56           WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie and his wife of more than 40  
57 years, Sula, have a son, Desi, and daughter-in-law, Emma;  
58 Sula is a nurse practitioner in neurology at Children's of  
59 Alabama.

60           WHEREAS, Mr. Gillespie, known as G or Mr. G, remains  
61 beloved and highly esteemed by music educators, former  
62 educators, and former students; now therefore,

63           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
64 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body regards, reveres,  
65 and honors Allen Gillespie in the highest manner for his  
66 numerous professional accolades and model citizenship; and,  
67 along with best wishes for continued success during his  
68 retirement, Representative Garrett and Senator Shellnutt  
69 dedicate this resolution to him as an exemplary leader with  
70 utmost respect, gratitude, and admiration for all that he  
71 has done and accomplished for the State of Alabama, Wenonah  
72 High School, Huffman High School, Clay-Chalkville High  
73 School, Hewitt-Trussville High School, and the countless  
74 lives that he has positively impacted through his  
75 leadership.

76           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
77 resolution be presented to Mr. Allen Gillespie and  
78 Hewitt-Trussville High School as a demonstration of our  
79 unrivaled gratitude, admiration, and respect.



**HJR245 Enrolled**

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 02-May-24.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**07-May-24**

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Adopted