

HJR33 ENROLLED



1 HJR33
2 ILYAW6Z-2
3 By Representatives Shedd, Almond, Bolton, Lamb, McCampbell,
4 Brinyark, Travis, Harbison
5 RFD: RULES
6 First Read: 13-Feb-24



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COMMENDING FINIS ST. JOHN IV FOR HIS SELECTION TO SERVE AS THE INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations are proudly presented to Finis St. John IV for being selected to serve as the inaugural executive director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at The University of Alabama, beginning April 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Finis "Fess" St. John IV has served since 2018 as The University of Alabama (UA) System Chancellor; in his role as UA System chancellor, St. John has successfully managed one of Alabama's largest employers and the State of Alabama's largest higher education enterprise; the UA System is comprised of three dynamic research universities, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville, as well as the UAB Health System; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as chancellor, the UA System's annual economic impact on the State of Alabama surpassed \$15 billion, and annual research and development expenditures increased by nearly 40% to over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor St. John spearheaded a comprehensive health and safety program that enabled the successful reopening of the UA System's



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29 campuses; despite national trends, enrollment across the UA
30 System has remained steady under his leadership; the total
31 number of degrees and certificates awarded has increased,
32 and the number of first-year students who are Alabama
33 residents has increased; and

34 WHEREAS, prior to becoming chancellor, St. John
35 served on The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees
36 for 17 years, including three consecutive terms as President
37 Pro Tempore; during that time, he also practiced law at one
38 of Alabama's oldest law firms, St. John & St. John, LLC, in
39 his hometown of Cullman; he is a cum laude graduate of UA,
40 where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa; he is also a
41 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and a
42 member of the distinguished American College of Trial
43 Lawyers; and

44 WHEREAS, the Shelby Institute is set to open in the
45 fall of 2024; it is supported by a \$20 million endowment and
46 will be a premier student-focused academic and service
47 program concentrating on the education and training of
48 students interested in public policy; around 20
49 undergraduate students will be selected for the inaugural
50 group of the Shelby Scholars Program, each of whom must
51 complete a minor in public policy and will receive
52 scholarship support; and

53 WHEREAS, under Chancellor St. John's wealth of
54 knowledge and leadership experience, students will
55 participate in specialized, policy-focused coursework as
56 well as unique experiences outside of the classroom,



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57 including internship and professional development
58 experiences, national conferences, a speaker series, and
59 interactions with prominent political leaders and policy
60 analysts on a local, state, and national level; and

61 WHEREAS, Finis St. John IV shares the vision of
62 Senator Richard Shelby and Dr. Annette Shelby, both of whom
63 have made a remarkable impact in education and public policy
64 on Alabama's higher education landscape; now therefore,

65 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
66 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Finis St. John IV is honored
67 and commended for his contributions to education and public
68 service through his position as The University of Alabama
69 System Chancellor; and sincere best wishes are offered to
70 him as he assumes the role as the inaugural executive
71 director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership
72 at The University of Alabama.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
74 resolution be presented to Finis St. John IV as a
75 demonstration of our unrivaled gratitude, admiration, and
76 respect.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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 20-Feb-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

29-Feb-24

Senate

Adopted