

## HJR149 INTRODUCED



1 HJR149  
2 I3VRVW6-1  
3 By Representatives Bracy, Jones, Drummond, Clarke  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



HJR\_\_\_ CONGRATULATING BEN HARRIS FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations  
are hereby presented to Coach Ben Harris for his induction  
into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame as a  
Member of the Class of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the induction ceremony will take place on  
June 14, 2025, in Canton, Ohio, the birthplace of  
professional football and home to the Pro Football Hall of  
Fame; Coach Harris's inclusion in this elite group, which  
includes legends like Warren Moon, Ray Lewis, and Michael  
Vick, underscores his extraordinary legacy in the sport; and

WHEREAS, a product of Toulminville High School in  
Mobile, Alabama, and a former quarterback at Alabama State  
University, Coach Harris's journey from player to coach  
exemplifies the profound impact one individual can have on  
the game; his most significant coaching achievement came  
during his tenure at Blount High School in Prichard,  
Alabama, where he orchestrated a stunning turnaround of a  
program that had struggled for years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Harris's arrival at Blount in 1988  
marked the beginning of a new era; in his first season, the  
Leopards posted a 6-6 record, including the school's  
first-ever playoff win; over the next decade, Ben Harris's



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29 teams would become a powerhouse in Alabama high school  
30 football, winning four state championships (1990, 1992,  
31 1996, and 1997) and earning eight regional titles; and

32 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Blount compiled a  
33 remarkable 100-30 record, with a playoff mark of 30-5; his  
34 success helped solidify Blount High School as one of the  
35 premier programs in the state, with runner-up finishes in  
36 1991 and 1995 rounding out his legacy; and

37 WHEREAS, Ben Harris's coaching career went beyond  
38 just wins and losses; it was about building character and  
39 empowering young athletes; his influence extended to both  
40 his players and the broader community; and

41 WHEREAS, recognized as a leader on and off the field,  
42 he was named Mobile County Citizen of the Year in 1996, and  
43 was selected Blount High School Teacher of the Year in 1992;  
44 he also received multiple accolades for his coaching  
45 prowess, including being named Coach of the Year by the  
46 Alabama Sports Writers Association in 1990 and 1997; his  
47 coaching accomplishments were further celebrated when he was  
48 named the NFL High School Coach of the Year in 1998; and

49 WHEREAS, following his back-to-back state titles at  
50 Blount in 1996 and 1997, Harris transitioned to a coaching  
51 role at his alma mater, Alabama State University, where he  
52 served as an assistant coach for five years and briefly as  
53 interim head coach; he later returned to high school  
54 football at Daleville in 2000, before returning to Blount  
55 for his final coaching stint from 2003-2008; and

56 WHEREAS, Coach Harris's remarkable career has earned



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57 him induction into the Alabama High School Athletic  
58 Association (AHSAA) Hall of Fame, the Alabama State  
59 Athletics Hall of Fame, the Baldwin County Hall of Fame, as  
60 well as the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, cementing his place  
61 in Alabama's football history; now therefore,

62 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
63 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Coach Ben Harris, a  
64 transformative figure in Alabama high school football, is  
65 heartily commended and congratulated for earning a place in  
66 the 2025 National High School Football Hall of Fame, and  
67 this resolution is offered to him in highest regard and with  
68 warm wishes for continued success in all his endeavors.