

HJR240 INTRODUCED



1 HJR240
2 JPZZBFF-1
3 By Representatives Clarke, Jones, Bracy, Drummond
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 15-Apr-25



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4 HJR___ COMMENDING FRED IRBY III ON HIS STELLAR CAREER AND
5 RETIREMENT FROM HOWARD UNIVERSITY.
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7 WHEREAS, Fred Irby III is highly commended on his
8 career of 51 years with Howard University as Professor of
9 Music; while he will be missed, his contributions to the
10 university and the world of music are unparalleled; and

11 WHEREAS, Fred Irby III is a native of Mobile,
12 Alabama, and a graduate of Grambling State University and
13 Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; as Professor
14 of Music at Howard University since 1974, he is the
15 Coordinator of Instrumental Music, trumpet instructor, and
16 Director of the internationally-acclaimed Howard University
17 Jazz Ensemble (HUJE); and

18 WHEREAS, HUJE was founded in 1975 by Mr. Irby;
19 outstanding performances in the United States, Europe, South
20 and Central America, China, Japan, Africa, and the Caribbean
21 have led to it being recognized as one of the foremost
22 university jazz ensembles in the world; HUJE has been heard
23 on the radio and television as well as in concert, often
24 appearing with celebrated artists; members of HUJE have won
25 awards as performers, composers, and arrangers; and the
26 ensemble includes among its alumni many celebrated jazz
27 artists; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Irby holds active membership in the



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Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, the National Association for Music Education, the International Trumpet Guild, the International Association of Symphony and Opera Musicians, the American Federation of Musicians, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Jazz Arts Institute and the International Women's Brass Conference; and

WHEREAS, major orchestral performances in which Mr. Irby has taken part include the Twentieth Century Fox movie Alvin and the Chipmunks, the ABC-TV show Dancing with the Stars, the NBC-TV show America's Got Talent, the 56th Primetime Emmy Awards, the 87th, 88th, and 89th Academy Awards Gala, the Kennedy Center Honors Gala, and the Christmas in Washington Gala; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Irby received the 2008 DownBeat Magazine Achievement Award In Jazz Education, and also in 2008 was inducted into the Grambling State University Alumni Hall of Fame; he received the Disney Performing Arts Award for Excellence in Teaching Jazz in 2009 at the MENC Teaching Music Awards ceremony and was designated a Lowell Mason Fellow in 2010; in 2016, he received the Ronnie Wells Jazz Service Award at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, the DC Jazz Festival awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award at their 2016 Gala at the Kennedy Center, and he was inducted into the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Alumni Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he has served as the Music Director of the Maryland, Oklahoma, Northwest MENC All-State Honor Jazz



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57 Ensembles and the inaugural MENC Honor Jazz Ensemble; he has
58 served as an adjudicator for the DownBeat Magazine Student
59 Music Awards, the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and the
60 Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Foundation Performing
61 Arts Scholarship; and

62 WHEREAS, Professor Irby established the Benny Golson
63 Jazz Master Award in 1996 to honor the legacy of the 1996
64 NEA Jazz Master and was instrumental in Mr. Golson receiving
65 an Honorary Doctorate in Music from Howard University, his
66 alma mater, in 2014; additionally, he was instrumental in
67 creating the endowed Abraham S. Venable Scholarship for
68 students in the Jazz Studies program at Howard University;
69 now therefore,

70 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
71 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Fred Irby III is highly
72 commended and congratulated on his esteemed musical career,
73 and this Legislature and Howard University thank him for his
74 contributions to the musical community and university and
75 wish him luck in all future endeavors.