

HJR172 ENROLLED



1 HJR172

2 MS2QEW1-2

3 By Representatives Drummond, Chestnut, England, Hollis,
4 Rafferty, McCampbell, Travis, Lands, Forte, Lawrence, Hendrix,
5 Jackson, Jones, Bracy, Gidley, Clarke, Sells, Baker, Sellers,
6 Datcher, Morris, Ensler, Givan

7 RFD: Rules

8 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3

4 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE JACKSON.

5

6 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we record
7 the passing of Civil Rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson on
8 February 17, 2026, at the age of 84; we celebrate his legacy
9 of servant leadership and advocacy with thanksgiving, even
10 as we mourn his devastating loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Jesse Burns was born on October 8, 1941, in
12 Greenville, South Carolina, to Helen Burns, who married
13 Charles Henry Jackson two years after Jesse's birth; he took
14 the surname of his stepfather, who adopted him when he was
15 15; together, his parents raised him in a loving and
16 supportive home; his grandmother, Tibby, encouraged in him a
17 sense of self-belief and would often borrow books for him to
18 read; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson began his higher education
20 at the University of Illinois on an athletic scholarship;
21 his first protest occurred when he was visiting home during
22 his freshman year and could not borrow a book from the
23 white-only library; he organized a sit-in with seven other
24 students in protest, the first of many peaceful protests
25 that he organized and participated in throughout his life;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson furthered his education at
28 North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College and later



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29 attended Chicago Theological Seminary; he became an ordained
30 Baptist minister in 1968; he was a protege of Dr. Martin
31 Luther King, Jr. and joined King's Southern Christian
32 Leadership Conference (SCLC), advancing quickly to be the
33 organization's Chicago coordinator; a year later, he became
34 the national leader of SCLC's Operation Breadbasket; he
35 witnessed the tragic assassination of Dr. King, an event
36 that affected him throughout his life; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1971, he formed his own organization,
38 Operation PUSH, which he later expanded to include other
39 marginalized people and renamed the organization the Rainbow
40 PUSH Coalition; throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Reverend
41 Jackson grew to be a prominent figure in the Civil Rights
42 Movement, maintaining forward momentum in sync with the
43 Movement as it progressed with the victorious passage of
44 each civil rights act; and

45 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson twice made a bid for the
46 presidency in 1984 and 1988; his first campaign had
47 significant support with more than one million new
48 registered voters and winning 3.5 million votes; he was a
49 gifted orator, delivering impassioned speeches, including an
50 emotional crescendo at the 1988 Democratic National
51 Convention, an appeal that placed him second behind Michael
52 Dukakis; until the election of Barack Obama in 2008, he was
53 the most successful Black candidate for the highest office;
54 and

55 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson continued to use his voice
56 to highlight civil rights abuses, not just at home, but



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57 internationally; he successfully negotiated with foreign
58 dictators for the release of American hostages; in 2000, he
59 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest
60 honor a civilian can receive; and

61 WHEREAS, in 2017, Reverend Jackson announced he had
62 Parkinson's disease and later was diagnosed with progressive
63 supranuclear palsy; he continued to appear at protests and
64 use his voice and influence for change; he stepped down as
65 president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition in 2023; he is
66 survived by his wife, Jackie, and six children; his legacy
67 will be remembered both by history and by those who followed
68 and admired him; now therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
70 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Reverend Jesse
71 Jackson is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution
72 serves as evidence of the great respect the State of Alabama
73 holds for his legacy of advocacy for the Civil Rights
74 Movement and the positive changes he worked so hard to
75 achieve through servant leadership and peaceful protest.

