

## HJR172 INTRODUCED



1 HJR172  
2 MS2QEW1-1  
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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HJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE JACKSON.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson furthered his education at



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

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

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

56 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson continued to use his voice



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57 to highlight civil rights abuses, not just at home, but  
58 internationally; he successfully negotiated with foreign  
59 dictators for the release of American hostages; in 2000, he  
60 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest  
61 honor a civilian can receive; and

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

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