

**SJR20 INTRODUCED**



1 SJR20

2 FM1YCC5-1

3 By Senators Reed, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,

4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,

5 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,

6 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr,

7 Price, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnett, Singleton, Smitherman,

8 Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 21-Feb-24



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SJR\_\_\_ RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025.

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was founded in 1975 and has evolved during the past half-century to become the premier organization solely dedicated to serving state and territorial legislators and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, it was created from the merger of three organizations that served or represented state legislatures and that shared the belief that legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits; and

WHEREAS, NCSL is a bipartisan organization with three objectives: to advance the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of state legislatures; to foster interstate communication and cooperation; and to ensure states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, our nation's state legislatures are America's laboratories of democracy and have continually shown that they are bodies that tackle emerging challenges, and state legislatures are where people from very different backgrounds, representing very different communities, can come together and find common ground; NCSL has facilitated the exchange of ideas, provided critical research and information, and encouraged a rigorous review of complex



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29 issues confronting our communities, states, and nation; and  
30 NCSL strives to strengthen the bonds between America's state  
31 legislatures and the international community; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1974, the American Society of Legislative  
33 Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) joined with several state  
34 legislative groups to form the National Conference of State  
35 Legislatures; former Secretary of the Alabama Senate  
36 McDowell Lee served as President of the ASLCS from 1974-1975  
37 before taking a leadership role with NCSL; Patrick Harris,  
38 current Secretary of the Alabama Senate, served as President  
39 of the ASLCS from 2017-2018 and is a past Chairman of the  
40 ASLCS American-Canadian Legislative Parliamentary Clerks  
41 Committee; in 1984, at the direction of NCSL, a Special  
42 Commission of ASLCS, the Mason's Manual Commission, was  
43 established; Former Secretary Lee was appointed to the  
44 Commission in 1991; over the past three decades, staff  
45 members of the Alabama Legislature have been appointed to  
46 serve on the Commission, including former Senate  
47 Administrative Assistant, Dave Avant; the current Clerk of  
48 the House of Representatives, John Treadwell, and Chief  
49 Clerk to the Alabama Senate, Joyce Wright, currently serve  
50 on the 2030 Commission; and

51 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has been involved with  
52 NCSL since its beginning; McDowell Lee, in his capacity as  
53 Secretary of the Alabama Senate, was a founding member of  
54 the NCSL Executive Committee and served as an officer from  
55 1975-1976, as Staff Vice President from 1976-1977, and again  
56 as an officer from 1977-1978; former Representative Michael



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57 Box served at-large from 1991-1994, as an officer from 1994  
58 to 1996, as President from 1996-1997, the only Alabamian to  
59 serve in that role, and continued on as an officer or ex  
60 officio member until 1998; other Alabamians who have served  
61 with NCSL include former Representative Randy Davis,  
62 2010-2011; former Senator Joe Fine, 1976-1978; former  
63 Legislative Reference Services Director Louis Greene,  
64 1979-1982; former Speaker of the House of Representatives  
65 Seth Hammett, 2003-2004 and 2008-2010; Legislative Services  
66 Agency Director Othni Lathram, 2018-2023; former Senator Ted  
67 Little, 1985-1986; Baldwin County Legislative Delegation  
68 Director of Constituent Services Cliff McCollum, 2023-2024;  
69 former Alabama Law Institute Director Bob McCurley,  
70 1998-2001; Director of Senate Security Jimmetta Gourdine,  
71 2011-2014; former Representative James Thomas, 1999-2002;  
72 and former Representative Greg Wren, 2012-2014; now  
73 therefore,

74 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
75 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this  
76 Legislature recognize and commend the National Conference of  
77 State Legislatures for superb leadership and commitment to  
78 the legislative institution.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the  
80 Senate is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate  
81 copy of this resolution to the National Conference of State  
82 Legislatures.