

## House Resolution 695

By: Representatives Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Evans of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Mathiak of the 74<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Robert L. Ashe III; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Robert L. Ashe III served faithfully on the MARTA Board of Directors from  
3 2010 to 2022, providing tremendous leadership in his role as chair from 2014 to 2018; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Ashe joined the MARTA Board during a tumultuous time in the metro  
5 Atlanta region and at MARTA as the recession caused dramatic revenue drops in the public  
6 sector, property values and sales tax receipts plummeted, and the 2012 Regional TSPLOST  
7 initiative failed; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Ashe provided counsel and helped guide MARTA to financial solvency,  
9 positioning the authority to secure bonding and building the foundation of its current fiscal  
10 strength; and
- 11 WHEREAS, building on the momentum that MARTA had established by 2014, Mr. Ashe  
12 played an essential role in negotiating the contract through which Clayton County called a  
13 referendum to join MARTA, a solution that would restore and expand public transportation  
14 in an under-invested part of the region; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Ashe was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 369, which allowed  
16 for the More MARTA Atlanta half-penny sales tax referendum in 2016 to undertake a \$2.7  
17 billion expansion and enhancement program within the City of Atlanta, the labor of which  
18 is beginning to bear fruit with the construction of the region's first bus rapid transit lines; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Ashe championed MARTA's interests during the creation of House Bill 930  
20 and the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority in 2018, ensuring that MARTA remains the  
21 primary transit operator in the region while retaining cohesion between agencies so that all  
22 customers have access to the transit services they need; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Ashe remained a steadfast and compassionate board member and lifelong  
24 transit advocate whose leadership from the head and heart led to rousing speeches that could  
25 leave those in the MARTA Board room either laughing or in tears.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body recognize and commend Robert L. Ashe III for his efficient,  
28 effective, and dedicated service to this state and extend the most sincere best wishes for  
29 future success, health, and happiness.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
32 Robert L. Ashe III.