

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 524

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Bill Anderson upon his sixtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Bill Anderson, one of the most popular and most enduring country music entertainers of all time, will celebrate his sixtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry on July 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Bill Anderson composed the country classic "City Lights" at the tender age of nineteen and began rapidly carving his place in musical history; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Nashville, "Whispering Bill" Anderson secured a recording contract with Decca Records and was soon recording hit after hit, including the unforgettable country and pop smash "Still"; and

WHEREAS, he has received Songwriter of the Year awards on six occasions, and his compositions have been recorded by such diverse musical talents as Ray Price, Porter Wagoner, James Brown, Debbie Reynolds, Ivory Joe Hunter, Kitty Wells, Faron Young, Lawrence Welk, Dean Martin, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Aretha Franklin; and

WHEREAS, a million-selling recording artist many times over, Bill Anderson has been named Male Vocalist Of The Year, twice honored as half of the Duet Of The Year, granted membership in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Georgia Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and South Carolina Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame, and received the ultimate honor of being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1990s, after a ten-year self-imposed hiatus, Bill Anderson returned to his first love, songwriting, and again experienced great success in that creative endeavor; during this time, he co-wrote several giant hits; won Song Of The Year honors in 2005 for co-writing "Whiskey Lullaby" and in 2007 for "Give It Away"; won a Dove award for co-writing the Country/Gospel Recorded Song of the Year, "Jonah, Job, and Moses"; and received two Grammy nominations; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Broadcast Music, Inc., named Mr. Anderson its first country music songwriting Icon, and in 2008, the Academy of Country Music honored him with their inaugural Poets Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on July 15, 1961, and he considers it one of the greatest honors of his career; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music artist to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Bill Anderson be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Bill Anderson upon his sixtieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, commend his illustrious career in country music, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.