

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Holt

A RESOLUTION celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act, the founding legislation of the nationwide Cooperative Extension System, including University of Tennessee Extension, Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension, and Tennessee 4-H.

WHEREAS, May 8, 2014, marks the centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act (Act of May 8, 1914, Ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), which established Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system that operates through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and U.S. Representative A. F. Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the “vocational, agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America” by bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant universities to people where they live and work; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension, represented in Tennessee by University of Tennessee (UT) Extension, Tennessee State University (TSU) Cooperative Extension, and Tennessee 4-H, is a critical component of the three-part land-grant university mission and works collaboratively with research, particularly the Agricultural Experiment Station System, and academic programs at 106 colleges and universities, including historically black, Native American, and Hispanic-serving institutions, in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and six U.S. territories to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal programmatic leadership and support enabled by the Smith-Lever Act and other legislation through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, UT Extension's economic impact in the State of Tennessee was an estimated \$484 million for fiscal year 2012, returning to the people an estimated \$9.88 for every \$1 in public funds invested; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension's research-based education for farmers, foresters, and ranchers has helped establish the United States as a leading agriculture-producing nation in the world and Tennessee among the nation's top ten growers of tobacco, hay, fresh tomatoes, fresh snap beans, cotton, and hardwood trees and among the nation's top ten producers of meat goats, beef cows, and equine; and

WHEREAS, UT Extension and TSU Cooperative Extension will be a vital component of the Governor's Rural Challenge, a ten-year strategic plan for agriculture, the goal of which is to make Tennessee number one in the Southeast in the development of agriculture and forestry by emphasizing opportunities to increase farm income and agribusiness investment; and

WHEREAS, since 1924, when the clover emblem was adopted by USDA to represent 4-H, Cooperative Extension's nationwide youth development program has reached millions of youth (including 184,581 in Tennessee in 2012) and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension prepares people for healthy, productive lives through sustained education, such as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, through UT Extension and TSU Cooperative Extension, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in Tennessee served more than 31,000 youth, 5,000 adults, and 1,700 seniors in eighty counties across Tennessee in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension provides rapid response to disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network and other similar efforts by providing real-time alerts and resources so Extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fires, droughts, pest outbreaks, and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock, and crops; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension translates science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks in which educators are uniquely available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find answers, and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension engages in all ninety-five of Tennessee's counties with rural and urban learners through practical community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality, and grow the next generation of leaders; and

WHEREAS, many states are celebrating the centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act with appropriate resolutions and proclamations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act, the founding legislation of the nationwide Cooperative Extension System which includes University of Tennessee Extension, Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension, and Tennessee 4-H, and we salute the thousands of extension professionals, nationally and statewide, as well as the thousands of volunteers who provide thousands of hours of service to promote excellence for 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and consumer sciences, and other programs in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.