

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 77

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Jill Bachus for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jill Bachus is one such estimable person, who has served the good people of this State with distinction and the greatest integrity; and

WHEREAS, through her thirty-seven years of exemplary tenure with the Tennessee Treasury Department, Mrs. Bachus distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jill Bachus has astutely served in numerous leadership roles within the Treasury Department, including as Director of the Tennessee Baccalaureate Education System, in which capacity she was instrumental in molding Tennessee's first 529 college savings program; and

WHEREAS, after successfully launching the program, Mrs. Bachus was called upon to assume the role of Director of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, in which position she was responsible for managing over 350,000 active and retired members enrolled in the system, which pays out in excess of \$2 billion a year in benefits; her leadership as Director ultimately helped lead TCRS to where it is today: the fourth best funded state public pension plan in the nation; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Director, she was a key part of the leadership team for two major TCRS initiatives—the establishment of the Hybrid Pension Plan for State Employees and Teachers and the implementation of the Concord web-based administration system. The

Hybrid Retirement Plan allows the State as an employer to improve the predictability of its costs while providing career employees with sufficient and substantial retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, more recently, Jill Bachus has served as the Assistant Treasurer for Financial Strategies and Analysis, overseeing the actuarial functions for various Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System matters, including legislative studies related to pensions, pension policy concerns, and the funding of public defined benefit pension plans in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bachus has also lent her time and tremendous talents to a number of professional organizations, including service on the Association of Government Accountants Executive Committee and as President of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, which has combined assets of more than \$2 trillion in trust funds and serves sixty-eight state, territorial, and local pension systems, representing more than nineteen million active and retired teachers, non-teaching personnel, and other public employees; and

WHEREAS, Jill Bachus is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Financial Manager; she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University and is a graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bachus's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Jill Bachus is most grateful and appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, Steve, and her much-adored children, Jennifer and Erin; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bachus is a public servant of the highest caliber, and her retirement from State government will create a void that will not be easily filled; her considerable talents and presence will be sorely missed by not only the Treasury Department, but all departments of State government and the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, through her exemplary tenure, Jill Bachus demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of her colleagues and the public alike, and she should be specially recognized, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Jill Bachus for her meritorious service, commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service to the people of this State, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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