

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 588

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' one hundredth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in Tennessee's storied musical tradition; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of over 500,000 songwriters and publishers, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary on February 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, ASCAP was established at the Hotel Claridge in New York City in 1914, and made its first royalty distribution in 1921 after licensing live performance venues; and

WHEREAS, ASCAP began licensing and collecting royalties from the new medium of television in 1949; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, ASCAP opened a southern regional office in Nashville, Tennessee, to better serve the growing country music membership; and

WHEREAS, The Copyright Act of 1976 dramatically changed the rights of ASCAP members, and ASCAP staunchly defended those rights in a suit against Pandora Media Inc.; and

WHEREAS, ASCAP and the Radio Music License Committee orchestrated the largest licensing deal in the history of American radio at more than \$1.7 billion, and in 2013, ASCAP distributed \$851 million in royalties; and

WHEREAS, ASCAP has protected the rights of songwriters and publishers through historic musical milestones such as the Big Band era, the cinematic hit, "Over the Rainbow," the

holiday classic “White Christmas,” the rise of rock and roll, and the Woodstock Music and Art Fair; and

WHEREAS, ASCAP has represented many great musicians, including Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Richie Havens, Melanie, Arlo Guthrie, Johnny Cash, Brad Paisley, and Beyoncé Knowles; and

WHEREAS, Chairman and President Paul Williams, an Oscar, Grammy, and Golden Globe winner and Hall of Fame songwriter, has deftly secured the rights of ASCAP members as new music distribution platforms have come to the fore; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers’ accomplishments should be specially recognized on the occasion of the organization’s one hundredth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for their one hundred years of dedication to American songwriters and music publishers.

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