

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Warrick Dunn for his incredible athletic career and requests that the National Football League Hall of Fame Committee consider his induction into the NFL Hall of Fame

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Warrick Dunn for his incredible athletic career and to request that the National
3 Football League Hall of Fame Committee consider his induction into the National
4 Football League Hall of Fame.

5 WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was
6 the oldest of six children born to Betty Smothers; he was thrust into the role of head of the
7 household at eighteen years old after his mother, who was a police officer, was killed while
8 escorting a businesswoman to make a night deposit; and

9 WHEREAS, Warrick was a standout running back for Catholic High School in Baton
10 Rouge, and after graduating, he accepted a scholarship to play for the Florida State
11 University Seminoles; with the help of his grandmother, he was able to be present as both
12 a father and brother for his siblings and become one of the best running backs in the
13 Seminoles' history; and

14 WHEREAS, while at Florida State, Warrick was a three-time All-ACC First Team
15 running back, and he became the first running back in school history to record three 1000-
16 yard seasons; he finished his college career as the Seminoles' career rushing leader with
17 3,959 yards and graduated with a degree in information studies in 1997; his jersey has been
18 retired by the Florida State and is displayed in the Moore Athletic Center; and

19 WHEREAS, Warrick was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the twelfth
20 pick of the first round of the 1997 NFL Draft; after a stellar rookie season, he was

1 recognized as the NFL Rookie of the Year by *Football News*, *Pro Football Weekly*, and
2 *Sports Illustrated*, and NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year by the Associated Press, *Football*
3 *Digest*, and *College and Pro Football Newsweekly*; over the course of his NFL career, he
4 played five seasons with the Buccaneers and six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons; he retired
5 from the NFL ranked fourteenth all-time for all-purpose yards with 15,306 and nineteenth
6 all-time for rushing yards with 10,967; and

7 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Falcons, Mr. Dunn developed a close
8 relationship with team owner Arthur Blank, and in 2009, he was unanimously approved by
9 the NFL team owners to become a limited partner of the team; he realized a long-time goal
10 of expanding his knowledge and experience in the areas of NFL team management,
11 branding, and operations, and in March 2010, he completed the purchase of a minority
12 ownership position in the Falcons organization; and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to Mr. Dunn's legendary football career, he is well-known
14 for his philanthropic endeavors; during his rookie season in Tampa Bay, he founded the
15 Homes for the Holidays program to fulfill his mother's dream of home ownership for single-
16 parent families; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunn now has four philanthropic programs under Warrick Dunn
18 Charities: Homes for the Holidays, Count on Your Future, Health Is Your Wealth, and
19 Hearts for Community Service Scholarships; these programs are dedicated to strengthening
20 communities by combating poverty and improving the academic, social, and economic
21 quality of life for families; and

22 WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn was recognized as the 2004 Walter Payton NFL Man of
23 Year for demonstrating outstanding community service and leadership on and off the field;
24 there are twenty-eight NFL Hall of Famers who have been named the Walter Payton NFL
25 Man of the Year, and Mr. Dunn is a worthy candidate to become the twenty-ninth member
26 of this exclusive list; and

27 WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn is an inspiring man who overcame tremendous hardships
28 with grace, forging an exceptional football career while serving his family and community,
29 and he is most deserving of consideration for induction into the NFL Hall of Fame.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Warrick Dunn for his incredible athletic
3 career and does hereby request the National Football League Hall of Fame Committee to
4 consider his induction into the National Football League Hall of Fame.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 215 Original	2025 Regular Session	McMakin
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