

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which founded the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which founded the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

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 the Cooperative Extension System, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and United States 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 is a critical component of the three-part land-grant university mission which works collaboratively with the Agricultural Experiment Station System, and academic programs in 106 colleges and universities, including historically black, Native American, and Hispanic-serving institutions to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal

1 leadership and support enabled by the Smith-Lever Act and through the U.S. Department of
2 Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

3 WHEREAS, cooperative extension's research-based education for farmers and
4 ranchers helped establish the United States as a leading agricultural-producing nation in the
5 world; and

6 WHEREAS, since 1924, when the clover emblem was adopted by the USDA to
7 represent 4-H, cooperative extension's nationwide youth development program has reached
8 millions of youth and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood; and

9 WHEREAS, cooperative extension prepares people for healthy, productive lives
10 through sustained education, such as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program,
11 breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance
12 programs; and

13 WHEREAS, cooperative extension provides rapid response to disasters and
14 emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network by providing real-time alerts
15 and resources so extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes,
16 floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks, and infectious diseases affecting humans,
17 livestock and crops; and

18 WHEREAS, cooperative extension translates science-based research for practical
19 application through local and online learning networks where educators are available to
20 identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find
21 answers, and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, cooperative extension engages with rural and urban learners through
24 practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of
25 knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant
26 production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices,
27 ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next
28 generation of leaders; and

29 WHEREAS, many states are celebrating the centennial of the signing of the
30 Smith-Lever Act with resolutions and proclamations, and many land-grant institutions also

1 are commemorating the signing of the historic legislation; and

2 WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension Service was established in Louisiana on July
3 23, 1914, when Louisiana State University President Thomas D. Boyd approved the
4 memorandum of understanding between Louisiana State University Agricultural and
5 Mechanical College and the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, now the Louisiana
6 State University AgCenter.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the
8 significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension
9 nationwide and encourages the people of the state of Louisiana to observe and celebrate the
10 centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for cooperative
11 extension.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana honors the
13 university faculty and local educators who dedicate their careers to providing trusted
14 education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems,
15 develop skills and build a better future for all Louisianians.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
17 Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Johnson.

DIGEST

Thompson

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nationwide Cooperative Extension System.