

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ronnie Jones for his dedication, knowledge, experience, and leadership as chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board.

WHEREAS, Ronnie Jones is a native of Tangipahoa Parish and currently resides in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Louisiana State University in 1974 and a Master of Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1983, while also attending Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in 1978-1979; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Jones was appointed Chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board by Governor Bobby Jindal in August 2013; and

WHEREAS, a veteran Louisiana State Police administrator with thirty-three years of experience in the agency prior to his appointment to the chairman's position; he served the last five years as the Confidential Assistant to the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Jones brought a unique and varied background to the position of chairman; he had previously retired from a commissioned position at the Louisiana State Police in October 2000 after twenty-seven years of service, having been Deputy Superintendent for Operations, Planning and Training where he oversaw a variety of critical programs and activities including training, research, planning, budgeting, grants administration, and public affairs, Deputy Superintendent for Support, Safety, Security and Communications, a State Police Troop Commander, and Commander of State Police Crisis Response; he was the primary legislative liaison and coordinator for public safety and state police legislative initiatives for nearly a decade, including when riverboat and video poker gaming were first approved in 1991 and participated in the debate and discussions which eventually resulted in the legalization of gaming; he also served as a senior operational and policy advisor and the department spokesperson when State Police established the regulatory

structure and began issuing licenses; and

WHEREAS, he has also been a college instructor and a consultant; through Public Safety Consulting Services, Ronnie Jones provided public safety agencies with advice and counsel on policy, management, training, and communications issues; he was a full-time and adjunct instructor in Criminal Justice at Southeastern Louisiana University for twenty-one years, an adjunct faculty member at Tulane University for six years, and also served at the University of North Florida's Institute of Police Technology and Management since 1981, where he co-founded the Institute's nationally recognized Media Management course, the program was the longest continuously running program of its kind in the country at the time of his departure; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Jones was appointed to the Governor's DWI and Vehicular Homicide Task Force by Governor Mike Foster in 1996 and served as its chairman for three years; the Task Force was instrumental in reshaping Louisiana's drinking and driving laws by increasing penalties for driving under the influence, raising the drinking age to twenty-one, lowering the presumptive blood alcohol level, and prohibiting open alcohol containers in motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board was created in 1996 as an independent body comprised of nine appointees from a variety of disciplines and serving staggered six-year terms, which oversees an industry which annually generates more than three billion dollars in total net revenue and more than six hundred million dollars in state fees; the board is primarily responsible for maintaining public confidence and operational integrity of fifteen riverboat properties, the land-based casino in the city of New Orleans, more than two thousand licensed video poker establishments, and four racetrack slot gaming facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, he was recognized by the International Masters of Gaming Law as the North American Regulator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Jones also served as co-chairman of the eleven member Riverboat Gaming and Economic Development Task Force created by legislative act in 2016 to study the riverboat gaming industry and offer recommendations to promote future economic development; the task force met over a period of seventeen months, heard from

forty-three witnesses including eight gaming CEOs and a variety of other stakeholders; the task force eventually synthesized more than two dozen industry recommendations into two primary recommendations – one permitting riverboat casinos to move gaming operations onto land within one thousand two hundred feet of their designated berthing sites and the other redefining gaming space as being measured by the number of gaming positions rather than square footage; both recommendations being enacted into law became the most substantive change in the riverboat gaming law in a quarter century; and

WHEREAS, during most of his career Jones served as the official agency spokesperson and managed the media in a variety of mundane, technical, and crisis situations, he is widely recognized as an expert in the field of crisis communications management and has provided media-related consultant and instructional services to public and private sector entities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, because of his diligence, dedication, and commitment to serving and protecting the people of Louisiana, it is appropriate that a sincere and heartfelt measure of appreciation be expressed to Ronnie Jones for his remarkable term of professional service, particularly his guidance and leadership of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon law enforcement public servants like Ronnie Jones who use their talents and resources to lead by example, with ethics and integrity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and express appreciation to Ronnie Jones for his dedication, knowledge, experience, and leadership as chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, and does hereby extend to him and his family full measures of continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ronnie Jones.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES