

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BURRELL, COX, FRANKLIN, GAINES, HALL, HONORE, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS BROOME, BROWN, DORSEY-COLOMB, GALLOT, GUILLORY, MORRELL, MURRAY, PETERSON, AND TARVER

HIGHER EDUCATION: Recognizes Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> as Southern University Day at the state capitol

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Southern University Day at the state capitol  
3 and to commend and congratulate the Southern University System on celebrating its  
4 one hundred thirty-five year history of providing higher educational opportunities  
5 to African American students; on leading the way in making such opportunities  
6 available to students of all races and all backgrounds; on preparing and nurturing  
7 many influential leaders in the state and in the country; and on playing a critically  
8 important role in the development of Louisiana and the nation.

9 WHEREAS, the Southern University System began in New Orleans, Louisiana, in  
10 1880, when a group of black politicians led by former United States Senator P.B.S.  
11 Pinchback of New Orleans, joined by T.T. Allain of Iberville Parish and Henry Demas of  
12 St. John the Baptist Parish, petitioned the state constitutional convention to establish a school  
13 of higher learning for "colored" people, and, as a result, Act 87 of 1880 was enacted and  
14 Southern University came into existence; and

15 WHEREAS, the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 provided for the  
16 establishment of an agricultural and mechanical department for African Americans with  
17 support from the state and federal governments and, as a result, Southern University was  
18 reorganized as a land-grant institution with separate divisions for agriculture and mechanical  
19 arts; and

1 WHEREAS, the university moved from New Orleans to Baton Rouge in 1912  
2 pursuant to Act 118 of 1912 and opened on its new site in 1914 under the leadership of Dr.  
3 J.S. Clark where its curriculum was expanded through two-year college degrees; and

4 WHEREAS, from a school with twelve students, five faculty members, a ten  
5 thousand dollar budget, and a vision, Southern University has developed into a university  
6 system that is a national treasure with five campuses offering baccalaureate degree  
7 programs, associate degree programs, master degree programs, doctoral programs, and a law  
8 degree program; and

9 WHEREAS, although the leaders of this state, nation, and the world who were  
10 educated at one of the Southern University System campuses are too numerous to  
11 innumerate, it is important to distinguish that Southern University's School of Nursing has  
12 twice been awarded school of the year and its teaching staff is among the most recognized  
13 professionals in their fields of study; graduates of the College of Engineering play  
14 significant, creative, and administrative roles at companies such as IBM, ExxonMobil,  
15 Entergy, Caterpillar Corp., Raytheon, Dow Chemical, and Chevron; graduates of the College  
16 of Business are employed at many of the top 40 corporations in the world; and Southern  
17 University scientists have conducted research that has become useful applications in the  
18 study of outer space, the preservation of food, protection of trees, soil and water, along with  
19 high-speed information networks; and

20 WHEREAS, ten Southern University graduates have earned the rank of General in  
21 the United States Army and one in the United States Marine Corps; and

22 WHEREAS, many of those persons who are grateful for the opportunity and  
23 education provided them by Southern University serve as elected members of this Louisiana  
24 Legislature; and

25 WHEREAS, Southern University merits a special measure of recognition upon the  
26 celebration of its exemplary education tradition proving that a dream in 1880 has today  
27 become a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success that now spans one  
28 hundred thirty-five years.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
30 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Southern

1 University Day at the state capitol, does hereby recognize and record for posterity the pride  
2 and honor that Southern University brings to the state of Louisiana, does hereby express  
3 sincere appreciation for its singular legacy of excellence, and does hereby extend to the  
4 entire Southern University family best wishes upon this memorable day.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
6 to the president of the Southern University System.

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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)]

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HCR 72 Original

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James

Recognizes Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Southern University Day at the state capitol and commends and congratulates the Southern University System on celebrating its history of providing one hundred thirty-five years of higher educational opportunities.