**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MR. BILLY R. STRICKLAND, SUPERINTENDENT OF LAURENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 55, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO LAURENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 55.

Whereas, the members of the Senate have learned that Mr. Billy R. Strickland, Superintendent of Laurens County School District 55, will enter a much-deserved retirement on May 15, 2016, after more than thirty-two years of service to the school district; and

Whereas, Mr. Strickland completed his undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina and earned a M.Ed. degree from Winthrop and an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University; and

Whereas, Mr. Strickland began his teaching career in 1984 at Laurens District 55 High School and was later promoted to assistant principal and then principal at the high school; and

Whereas, in 1998, Mr. Strickland became a district-level administrator when he was appointed Laurens School District 55 Assistant Superintendent of Operations. He served in that capacity for ten years, until his appointment as superintendent; and

Whereas, under his leadership, Laurens County School District 55 has implemented an energy conservation program, resulting in the district paying the lowest amount of energy costs in the state. He helped develop a strategy to pass a construction referendum, and led the district in a ten-year $53 million building and renovation program; and

Whereas, Mr. Strickland is active in his community, serving organizations such as the Laurens Chamber of Commerce, the High School League, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, the Laurens YMCA, the Upper Savannah Regional Education Center, the Laurens Economic Development Corporation, Piedmont Technical College, and Lander University. He is a member of the Laurens Rotary Club and Laurens First Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Mr. Strickland is married to Celita, an elementary school guidance counselor. The couple was blessed with two sons, Matt and Seth; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for the years of unparalleled leadership Mr. Strickland has given to the Laurens County School District 55 and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well-earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Mr. Billy R. Strickland, Superintendent of Laurens County School District 55, upon the occasion of his retirement, and honor and recognize his many years of dedicated service to Laurens County School District 55.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Billy R. Strickland.

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