**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND COMMEND R. LESTER “LES” BOLES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE AFTER THIRTY‑NINE YEARS OF EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE TO SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is the prerogative of the House of Representatives of South Carolina to recognize and honor those citizens who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, distinguish themselves in their service to the people of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, it also in this sense that the House of Representatives acknowledges significant milestones in the careers of such illustrious individuals of our great State. In accordance with its traditions, the members of the House of Representatives are proud to commend R. Lester “Les” Boles, Director of Budget Development for the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, who, on August 16, 2018, will retire after thirty‑nine years of outstanding public service to the State; and

Whereas, raised in Jonesville, North Carolina, Les completed his bachelor’s degree in economics in 1972 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he played second base on the institution’s baseball team. He received his master’s degree in business administration in 1973 from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, during the course of his career, Les has worked for the Legislative Audit Council and the United States Government Accountability Office in Washington, D. C., where he was employed as a management auditor for two years. During legislative sessions, Les lent his talents to the House Ways and Means Committee. In January 1998, he became the director of the State Budget Office; and

Whereas, throughout his entire tenure in guiding the state budget, Les exhibited great knowledge, wisdom, and expertise, while also possessing an ability to explain arcane and complex subjects in an accurate and understandable way to the benefit of lawmakers, legislative staff, state agencies, the media, and the people of South Carolina; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina has realized increased efficiency and financial savings as a result of his efforts when Les created and implemented a new budget system at a minimal cost to taxpayers; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina also benefitted from his assistance over the years to various State Treasurers in communicating the State’s fiscal status to credit rating agencies; and

Whereas, his keen knowledge of the state budget process and unmatched attention to detail have been key factors through the years in making the annual appropriation of taxpayer dollars more transparent and accessible to the public; and

Whereas, his experience has provided invaluable contributions in guiding and implementing the state budget, and his service has gained the admiration and appreciation of his colleagues, legislative staff, and agency officials; and

Whereas, Les is the proud husband of the former Susan Pound, the equally proud father of daughters Melissa McAllister and Carrie Patterson, and the loving grandfather of Grahame McAllister and Hannah Patterson; and

Whereas, in his much‑deserved retirement, Les frequently will be on the road, visiting between his two grandchildren. In his spare time, Les will continue to raise chickens. Though removed from his days as a college player, Les, an Atlanta Braves fan, still has a passion for baseball and regularly attends college and professional games. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and commend R. Lester “Les” Boles on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Director of Budget Development for the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office after thirty‑nine years of exemplary public service to South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to R. Lester “Les” Boles.

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