**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE ROBERT W. MARTIN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF ECONOMIST FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS THIRTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO OFFER WISHES FOR A RETIREMENT AS SATISFYING AND REWARDING TO HIM AS HIS SERVICE HAS BEEN TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, raised with an appreciation for academics, sports, and music, as a young man, Robert Martin developed a penchant for hard work by spending summers working in a textile mill and painting houses. He graduated from high school as a letterman in baseball and football; and

Whereas, the young Robert earned a bachelor’s degree in both economics and English from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and then studied advanced economics and mathematics at Penn State and Virginia Tech before moving to the great State of South Carolina in 1988. In 1989, he earned a master’s degree in economics from Clemson University; and

Whereas, Mr. Martin began his professional career as a research assistant in the Clemson University Economics Department, went on to work as a consultant to Duke Energy and policy analyst for the Center for Policy Studies, and then served as an adjunct instructor of economics at Midlands Technical College, where he earned the distinction of Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year in 1997; and

Whereas, during that period, in 1990, Mr. Martin concurrently began his work for the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors, devoting thirty years of his career as an economist to the State of South Carolina and rising to the rank of chief economist for the board before his retirement; and

Whereas, over the course of his career, he provided expertise in economics and econometrics to the State, developing numerous economic models that have enabled policy leaders to make informed decisions based upon objective research on topics ranging from economic development to motor fuels and a myriad of other issues, as well as developing fiscal impacts on legislation for all of the state’s complex and varied revenue streams; and

Whereas, his experience has provided invaluable contributions in forecasting and analyzing the state economy and General Fund, contributions that called for many late nights and weekends in pursuit of the best data and analysis possible, and his service has gained the admiration and appreciation of his colleagues, legislative staff, and agency officials; and

Whereas, upon his retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Nancy (an accomplished chef whose cooking his office mates will certainly miss), practicing his golf swing and (he hopes) breaking eighty on the golf course, and continuing his home renovation projects; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent excellence and commitment Robert Martin has bestowed on this great State, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly wish him all the best and trust that as he enters retirement he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Robert W. Martin upon the occasion of his retirement as chief economist for the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors, extend deep appreciation for his thirty years of distinguished public service, and offer wishes for a retirement as satisfying and rewarding to him as his service has been to the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Robert W. Martin.

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