**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4488**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

House Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. B. Newton, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Bowers, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, B.J. Cox, B.L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Duncan, Edgerton, Erickson, Forrest, Frank, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliam, Gilliard, Gilreath, Govan, Grant, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hartz, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Holman, Hosey, Howard, Huff, J.E. Johnson, J.L. Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Luck, Magnuson, Martin, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, Montgomery, J. Moore, T. Moore, Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, W. Newton, Oremus, Pace, Pedalino, Pope, Rankin, Reese, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sanders, Schuessler, Sessions, G.M. Smith, M.M. Smith, Spann-Wilder, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Teeple, Terribile, Vaughan, Waters, Weeks, Wetmore, White, Whitmire, Wickensimer, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow

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Introduced in the House on May 6, 2025

Adopted by the House on May 6, 2025

Summary: Joseph Hayne Rainey

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 5/6/2025 House Introduced and adopted (House Journal‑page 3)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4488&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[05/06/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4488_20250506.docx)

A house RESOLUTION

TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH HAYNE RAINEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 21 AND TO COMMEMORATE HIS HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives take great pride in honoring distinguished leaders from our state’s history who have left an indelible mark on the cause of liberty and equality; and

Whereas, born into slavery in Georgetown, South Carolina, on June 21, 1832, Joseph Hayne Rainey rose to become a trailblazer in American politics, courageously paving the way for future generations of Black leaders; and

Whereas, after gaining his freedom and returning to the United States following some time abroad, Rainey entered public life with a steadfast commitment to civil rights, education, and economic opportunity for all; and

Whereas, in 1870, Joseph Rainey made history by becoming the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives, representing South Carolina’s First Congressional District during the Reconstruction era with honor and distinction; and

Whereas, during his tenure in Congress, Rainey championed policies promoting racial equality, fought against the Ku Klux Klan, supported public education, and defended the constitutional rights of all Americans; and

Whereas, his extraordinary legacy continues to inspire leaders at every level of government, and his name endures through institutions such as the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy, which works to empower a new generation of civic-minded public servants; and

Whereas, as we mark the anniversary of his birth on June 21, it is fitting and proper for the South Carolina House of Representatives to recognize the enduring contributions of this son of South Carolina, whose courage and vision helped shape a more just and inclusive nation. 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 remember the life and legacy of the Honorable Joseph Hayne Rainey on the occasion of his birthday on June 21 and commemorate his historic contributions to the State of South Carolina and the United States.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy.

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