HJR33

ILYAW6Z-2

By Representatives Shedd, Almond, Bolton, Lamb, McCampbell, Brinyark, Travis, Harbison

RFD: RULES

First Read: 13-Feb-24

COMMENDING FINIS ST. JOHN IV FOR HIS SELECTION TO SERVE AS THE INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations are proudly presented to Finis St. John IV for being selected to serve as the inaugural executive director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at The University of Alabama, beginning April 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Finis "Fess" St. John IV has served since 2018 as The University of Alabama (UA) System Chancellor; in his role as UA System chancellor, St. John has successfully managed one of Alabama's largest employers and the State of Alabama's largest higher education enterprise; the UA System is comprised of three dynamic research universities, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville, as well as the UAB Health System; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as chancellor, the UA System's annual economic impact on the State of Alabama surpassed $15 billion, and annual research and development expenditures increased by nearly 40% to over $1 billion; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor St. John spearheaded a comprehensive health and safety program that enabled the successful reopening of the UA System's

campuses; despite national trends, enrollment across the UA System has remained steady under his leadership; the total number of degrees and certificates awarded has increased, and the number of first-year students who are Alabama residents has increased; and

WHEREAS, prior to becoming chancellor, St. John served on The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees for 17 years, including three consecutive terms as President Pro Tempore; during that time, he also practiced law at one of Alabama's oldest law firms, St. John & St. John, LLC, in his hometown of Cullman; he is a cum laude graduate of UA, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa; he is also a graduate of the University of Virginis School of Law and a member of the distinguished American College of Trial Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the Shelby Institute is set to open in the fall of 2024; it is supported by a $20 million endowment and will be a premier student-focused academic and service program concentrating on the education and training of students interested in public policy; around 20 undergraduate students will be selected for the inaugural group of the Shelby Scholars Program, each of whom must complete a minor in public policy and will receive scholarship support; and

WHEREAS, under Chancellor St. John's wealth of knowledge and leadership experience, students will participate in specialized, policy-focused coursework as well as unique experiences outside of the classroom,

including internship and professional development experiences, national conferences, a speaker series, and interactions with prominent political leaders and policy analysts on a local, state, and national level; and

WHEREAS, Finis St. John IV shares the vision of Senator Richard Shelby and Dr. Annette Shelby, both of whom have made a remarkable impact in education and public policy on Alabama's higher education landscape; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Finis St. John IV is honored and commended for his contributions to education and public service through his position as The University of Alabama System Chancellor; and sincere best wishes are offered to him as he assumes the role as the inaugural executive director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at The University of Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to Finis St. John IV as a demonstration of our unrivaled gratitude, admiration, and respect.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 20-Feb-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate **29-Feb-24** Adopted