

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1021

By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the esteemed participants in the National Conference of State Legislatures International Program, Representing Diversity: A Legislative Exchange.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those estimable programs and individuals who, through their unflagging commitment to representing their constituents and dedication to improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens, have established themselves as civic leaders and distinguished parliamentarians of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), with the support of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is sponsoring and coordinating a program called Representing Diversity: A Legislative Exchange Between Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, this legislative exchange program, which includes parliamentary members and senior staff from Francophone Africa, is designed to increase understanding and knowledge of how legislatures interact with diverse groups in society, promote professional relations among participating nations, and strengthen their parliamentary institutions in general; and

WHEREAS, the NCSL International Program is providing members and staff from the parliaments of Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal with opportunities to meet with U. S. state legislative experts and both federal and state legislators; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures International Program, Representing Diversity: A Legislative Exchange, is touring the United States, with stops in Washington, D.C., Nashville, Tennessee, and Lansing, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the group of 12 African parliamentarians and senior staff is visiting Nashville on April 11 – 13, 2006; and

WHEREAS, by increasing understanding and knowledge of how legislatures operate and function, the National Conference of State Legislatures International Program, Representing Diversity: A Legislative Exchange, is enabling these parliamentarians to better fulfill their roles as representatives of their constituents and their respective nations; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished participants in this program include Mr. Outmane Hassane Abakur, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Chad; Mr. Adjedoué Weidou, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Chad; Ms. Colette Akissi Kouassi, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire; Mr. Alain Ackapo Addra, Drafter of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire; Mr. Cheick Tidiane Traore, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Guinea; Mr. El Hadj Abdoulaye Diallo, Press Secretary of the National Assembly of Guinea; Mr. Moussa Menta, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Mali; Mr. Cheick Talibouya Tembely, Legislative Secretary of the National Assembly of Mali; Ms. Maïzoumbou Hapsatou Djibrilla, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Niger; Mr. Moussa Moutari, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Niger; Mr. Mamadou Aïssa Ndiaye, Meetings and Committees Clerk of the National Assembly of Senegal; and Mr. Moussa Tine, Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Senegal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Don Clark and Ms. Sanda Huffman both serve as interpreters for this international exchange program, while Mr. Paul Snow, Senior Program Assistant of the International Programs of the National Conference of State Legislatures, serves as the NCSL Staff Escort; and

WHEREAS, through this legislative tour, these estimable parliamentarians and staff members are learning invaluable strategies, procedures, and information for use in their homelands; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to specially honor and commend the estimable leaders and parliamentarians who are participating in this most noteworthy program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize these outstanding parliamentarians and senior staff members from Francophone Africa, commend their dutiful efforts to represent the best interests of their constituents and their respective nations by participating in NCSL's Representing Diversity program, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we welcome our distinguished guests to the State of Tennessee and its Capital City, Nashville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.