

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 808

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint HBCU Day on the Hill.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the home of seven historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), namely American Baptist College, Fisk University, Knoxville College, Lane College, LeMoyne-Owen College, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, representatives of these outstanding institutions will gather in Nashville for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint HBCU Day on the Hill; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the first state to have a full-time position focused solely on strengthening the capacity of its historically black colleges and universities to provide the highest quality education, increase opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Tennessee has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, by strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to participate in state programs, American Baptist College, Fisk University, Lane College, LeMoyne-Owen College, and Tennessee State University were awarded Summer Bridge program grants; Lane College and Tennessee State University received Veteran Reconnect grants; and Fisk University received a Military Pathway Pilot Project grant; and

WHEREAS, as of 2018, just under 12,000 students were enrolled at Tennessee HBCUs, which generate \$873 million in total economic impact from direct spending by the seven institutions on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations and by students attending the institutions, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, twenty-one percent of black bachelor's degree completers in Tennessee graduated from an HBCU; Tennessee HBCU students received 1,526 bachelor's degrees, 440 master's degrees, and 223 doctoral degrees; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's HBCUs generate over 7,000 jobs for their local and regional economies; a Tennessee HBCU graduate working full time throughout his or her working life can expect to earn \$928,000 in additional income due to a college credential; and

WHEREAS, the success of Tennessee's seven HBCU institutions is of vital importance to the future of our State and our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we welcome the participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint HBCU Day on the Hill on February 25, 2020, commend all seven institutions represented by this esteemed group, and salute their commitment to academic excellence in the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.