

House Resolution 97

By: Representatives England of the 108th, Benton of the 31st, Martin of the 47th, and Cooper of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Kenneth Fern, Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Kenneth Fern, Jr., has long been recognized by everyone associated with state
3 government as one of the country's most competent and knowledgeable masters of the
4 specialized arcana of southern state legislatures; and

5 WHEREAS, he is an honest and dedicated public servant who strives for excellence in all
6 his endeavors and whose primary concern is the effective and efficient operation of state
7 government and his unparalleled work ethic epitomizes perfectly the ideal and true spirit of
8 public service; and

9 WHEREAS, this beloved individual has exhibited extraordinary devotion to duty,
10 outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail throughout his career
11 of peerless public service in The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State
12 Governments for the past 27 years and, for 21 of those years, his exemplary service as its
13 deputy director; and

14 WHEREAS, Ken is the consummate professional and brought to the operation and
15 administration of both the SLC and the CSG an unprecedented wealth of experience with his
16 prior service as a legislative analyst for the Kentucky General Assembly's Legislative
17 Research Commission; and

18 WHEREAS, the complete contributions Ken made during his tenure are simply too
19 numerous to list, but are highlighted by his solid staffing of SLC committees; his liaison
20 activities to staff sections, primarily the legislative service agency directors group; his liaison
21 activities to the national office of the CSG in Lexington, Kentucky; and his acute
22 attentiveness to both members and staff of all components of the SLC and the CSG; and

23 WHEREAS, the members of this body who worked closely with Ken on so many legislative
24 matters will always admire his consistently thorough consideration of issues and will miss
25 his quick wit, amiable personality, and irreplaceable institutional knowledge and his integrity
26 and reliability rightfully earned him our honor, respect, and trust over the years; and

27 WHEREAS, he has consistently demonstrated a solid commitment to the careful study of
28 sensitive issues and proposed solutions and quickly developed a reputation as an equitable,
29 impartial leader whose decisions are governed by the rules of honesty and fair play and
30 whose actions are marked by unmatched dignity, grace, and wisdom; and

31 WHEREAS, his unparalleled organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
32 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his acute sensitivity to the needs of the state
33 legislatures of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi,
34 Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West
35 Virginia have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

36 WHEREAS, he retired from public service on December 31, 2010, and it is abundantly
37 fitting and proper that the extraordinary attainments of this exceptional and singular
38 legislative professional be recognized appropriately.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body commend Kenneth Fern, Jr., for the almost three decades of
41 effective, efficient, unselfish, and dedicated service that he has rendered on behalf of Georgia
42 and the rest of the SLC and CSG member states; congratulate him upon his well-deserved
43 retirement; and extend to him their utmost appreciation for his having so purely and truly
44 defined for others the meaning of public servant.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Kenneth Fern, Jr.