

House Resolution 13EX

By: Representative Coomer of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. S. Lester Tate III; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. S. Lester Tate III adeptly served the citizens and justice system of Georgia
3 in his capacity as the 48th President of the State Bar of Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, under Mr. Tate's leadership as president, the State Bar of Georgia achieved a
5 number of significant accomplishments, including the five-year-early retirement of the debt
6 on the Bar Center headquarters in downtown Atlanta, a facility that is well known as the
7 finest of its kind in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate directed and personally participated in the State Bar's successful
9 legislative advocacy during the 2011 session of the General Assembly, resulting in passage
10 and ultimate enactment of several major bills to strengthen the justice system in our state,
11 including House Bill 24, the enactment of a more than 20-year effort to modernize the Code
12 of Evidence used in Georgia's courts for the first time since 1863; and

13 WHEREAS, during Mr. Tate's term in office, the State Bar of Georgia provided a
14 tremendous service to members of the General Assembly and the public through the
15 completion and publication of a landmark study which documented the state-wide economic
16 impact of judicial caseload increases and reductions in the funding of our courts; and

17 WHEREAS, he has been recognized as one of the state's top trial lawyers by *Georgia Trend*
18 and *Atlanta* magazines and through his induction into the American Board of Trial
19 Advocates, one of the nation's most prestigious groups of trials lawyers; and

20 WHEREAS, he has served the State Bar of Georgia in numerous capacities throughout his
21 career, including as a member of its board of governors and its executive committee, as
22 treasurer, and as chair of its general practice and trial section; and

23 WHEREAS, a native of Cedartown, Georgia, Mr. Tate graduated from the Georgia Institute
24 of Technology, earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina, and is a partner
25 at the firm of Akin & Tate P.C. in Cartersville; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Tate has served his community as chairman of the Bartow County United
27 Way campaign, a baseball and soccer coach in Cartersville's youth sports programs, coach
28 of the Woodland High School Mock Trial program, and a volunteer legal counsel for
29 Advocates for Bartow's Children; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
31 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body commend Mr. S. Lester Tate III for his continued and dedicated
34 service to the justice system and the citizens of the State of Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. S. Lester Tate III.