

Senate Resolution 112

By: Senator Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating James E. Thompson on the occasion of his retirement; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, James E. Thompson is retired from the Savannah-Chatham County School
4 System after 43 years of educational service; and

5 WHEREAS, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Savannah State College in 1968,
6 and a Master of Music from VanderCook College of Music in 1978; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson began his teaching career in the Effingham County School
8 System in 1968, received administration certification from Georgia Southern University in
9 1992, and served a distinguished 21 year career as director of bands at Savannah High School
10 from 1970 to 1990; and

11 WHEREAS, he was the first African American to serve as band director at a predominantly
12 white school and during his tenure at Savannah High School he developed one of the finest
13 grade VI concert band programs in the first district that became known for receiving superior
14 ratings at district Large Group Performance Evaluations; and

15 WHEREAS, a truly selfless and dedicated educator, Mr. Thompson's success shines through
16 the countless accomplishments of his students who have been selected as participants in
17 Georgia All-State Bands and Orchestras, the prestigious Governors Honors Program, and
18 various honor bands throughout the first district, the state, and throughout the Southeast; and

19 WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, Mr. Thompson has served as a clinician and concert
20 band judge throughout Georgia and the Southeast in addition to working as a music
21 instructional resource specialist, assistant principal, principal, and magnet program lead
22 teacher; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson has held nearly every first district office, has served on the
24 GMEA Board, was selected as STAR teacher for the Savannah-Chatham County System in
25 1983, and was selected teacher of the year at Savannah High School in 1990; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson is united in love and marriage to Mrs. Thomasina
27 Jenkins-Thompson and the two have four remarkable children, all of whom are successful
28 college graduates, and three cherished grandchildren; and

29 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Thompson is a member of St. Philip
30 Monumental A.M.E. Church where he serves on the steward board; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the efforts of this remarkable Georgian
32 be recognized as a testament to the power one individual has in cultivating the talents of
33 countless others through sheer dedication and commitment to excellence.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 commend Mr. James E. Thompson for his many acts of service, congratulate him on the
36 occasion of his retirement, and wish him many more years of health and happiness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. James E. Thompson.