

Senate Resolution 120

By: Senators James of the 35th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Rhett of the 33rd, Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Hamilton Frederick Bohannon for 50 years in the music industry; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Hamilton Frederick Bohannon, often credited and known professionally as
4 "Bohannon," is an American percussionist, band leader, songwriter, and record producer,
5 who was one of the leading figures in 1970s disco music; and

6 WHEREAS, he was born on March 7, 1942, in Newnan, Georgia, learned the drums at
7 school, and began playing in local bands, one of which featured guitarist Jimi Hendrix,
8 before graduating from Clark College, Atlanta, with a degree in music and secondary
9 education; and

10 WHEREAS, after a brief period as a school teacher, he was recruited in 1964 as drummer
11 in 13-year-old Stevie Wonder's touring band; he moved to Detroit in 1967, where he was
12 employed by Motown as the leader and arranger of Bohannon & The Motown Sound, who
13 provided backing for many of the label's top acts on tour, including Stevie Wonder, Smokey
14 Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Four Tops,
15 and others; and

16 WHEREAS, when Motown moved from Detroit to Los Angeles, Bohannon stayed behind
17 to form his own ensemble, featuring members of the local band, The Fabulous Counts, and
18 including musicians such as Ray Parker, Jr., and Dennis Coffey; he signed in 1972 with the
19 Dakar label run by producer Carl Davis and released his debut album, *Stop & Go*, in early
20 1973, followed by five more albums for the label over the next two years on which he
21 perfected his formula of heavy, thudding bass accents and aggressive rhythms; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1974, his first hit single was "South African Man," which reached number
23 78 on the Billboard R&B chart and had more success in the UK where it reached number 22
24 on the pop chart; he followed this up in 1975 with "Foot Stompin Music," his only record to

25 reach the US Hot 100, and "Disco Stomp," his biggest hit in the UK where it reached number
26 6; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1976, Bohannon signed with Mercury Records and two years later had one
28 of his biggest successes with "Let's Start The Dance," which reached number 9 on the R&B
29 chart and number 7 on the disco chart and featured singer Carolyn Crawford, whose
30 subsequent albums Bohannon went on to produce; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1980, he established Phase II Records and continued to have hits on the R&B
32 chart for the next three years using new vocalists, Liz Lands and Altrinna Grayson; he signed
33 with MCA Records in 1984 and released several more albums; and his last album, *It's Time*
34 *To Jam*, was issued on the South Bound label in 1990; and

35 WHEREAS, much of his music has been widely sampled, most notably on Chicago
36 DJ/producer Paul Johnson's 1999 hit, "Get Get Down," which heavily sampled Bohannon's
37 "Me and the Gang"; other musicians who have used samples of his music include Jay Z,
38 Digable Planets, and Snoop Dogg; his name was mentioned in the Tom Tom Club song
39 "Genius of Love"; and his composition, "Ooh!," was included on Mary J. Blige's album, *Love*
40 *& Life* in 2003; and

41 WHEREAS, in recent years, Bohannon has produced a new singer, Governor, on Atlantic
42 Records, as well as working on material with his son, Hamilton Bohannon II, and publishing
43 an audiobook memoir of his early years in the music business called *Bohannon Speaks from*
44 *the Beginning*.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 commend Hamilton Frederick Bohannon for 50 years in the music industry.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Hamilton Frederick
49 Bohannon.