

## House Resolution 1826

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Metze of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Bishop Preston W. Williams II; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Bishop Preston W. Williams II is the 119th consecrated bishop of the African  
3 Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, and in July, 2012, he was appointed by the  
4 Connectional A.M.E. Church to serve the 6th Episcopal District, governing the 543 A.M.E.  
5 Churches throughout the State of Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Bishop Williams earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southeastern  
7 University and a Master of Divinity degree from Turner Theological Seminary at the  
8 Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he pursued further studies in the Continuing Education Program at Yale  
10 University Divinity School and earned his doctorate degree from American University's  
11 Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; and
- 12 WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2004, Bishop Williams served as the Presiding Prelate of the 17th  
13 Episcopal District which is composed of Central African countries including, the Democratic  
14 Republic of the Congo (Zaire), the Congo Brazzaville, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Burundi,  
15 Tanzania, Rwanda, and Malawi; and
- 16 WHEREAS, from 2004 to 2012, Bishop Williams served as the Presiding Prelate of the 7th  
17 Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church, which encompasses the State of South Carolina;  
18 Bishop Williams was born in the southern town of Willacoochee, Georgia, and so his July,  
19 2012, appointment to the 6th District, his home State of Georgia, is something of a  
20 homecoming; and
- 21 WHEREAS, with education at the heart of his administration, Bishop Williams developed  
22 a Theological Education Model for the 7th District which ensured that educational  
23 opportunities were provided to all members of the A.M.E. Church on the local,

24 undergraduate, and graduate levels; on the local church level, he improved the certification  
25 process for local church teachers by increasing course requirements and expanding course  
26 offerings; and

27 WHEREAS, Bishop Williams launched numerous divinely inspired ministries that lifted the  
28 spirits of the members of the 7th Episcopal District to new heights, and made several  
29 ministry minded adjustments to refocus the 7th District and promote unity in the  
30 accomplishment of the core missions of the church, including the establishment of the  
31 Annual Conference Community Outreach program wherein, during the series of annual  
32 conferences, the Women's Missionary Society visits and provides financial and other forms  
33 of assistance to local community agencies; and

34 WHEREAS, at the time of his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Williams served as the  
35 Senior Pastor of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church in Atlanta and developed a partnership with  
36 the Housing and Urban Development Authority and Herman J. Russell, Incorporated, which  
37 led to a \$15 million renovation program for more than 600 apartment units in Atlanta; and

38 WHEREAS, for eight years Bishop Williams served as the treasurer of the 6th Episcopal  
39 District, which encompasses the State of Georgia, and during his tenure as the Turner  
40 Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees member and comptroller of finance, he was able  
41 to build a \$2 million student dormitory and administrative office; and

42 WHEREAS, Bishop Williams served on President Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Committee and  
43 Transitional Team, and is a champion of social and political action, economic empowerment,  
44 and business enterprise development; he also has 50 years of entrepreneurial experience; and

45 WHEREAS, his community and organizational involvements are important to him and  
46 include, membership in the NAACP, Free and Accepted Masons, Urban League, and the  
47 Democratic Party; and

48 WHEREAS, he is united in love and marriage to his beautiful wife, Wilma, and is blessed  
49 with four remarkable children, Arnold, Wilma, Stella, and Prestina; and

50 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
51 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
53 the members of this body recognize and commend Bishop Preston W. Williams II on all of  
54 his outstanding achievements and extend most sincere best wishes for continued success.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
56 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
57 Bishop Preston W. Williams II.