

House Resolution 981

By: Representative Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Michael "Mike" Akins; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Michael "Mike" Akins is the business agent for Local 479 of the International
3 Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), the labor union representing technicians,
4 artisans, and craftspeople working on motion picture and television productions in Georgia,
5 including the equipment and construction shops which support these components of the
6 entertainment industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike Akins began his career in the film industry in 1987, working as an
8 entry-level crew member, and moved up the ranks within the IATSE until he was elected to
9 be the business agent of Local 479 in 1998; and

10 WHEREAS, during his two-decade tenure as Local 479's business agent, Mike Akins was
11 instrumental in the passage of an initial film tax credit law in 2005 and improving that law
12 in 2008, which has propelled Georgia into the forefront of productions in the United States
13 to the point where Georgia is currently the third-highest production center, behind only
14 California and New York, in film and television productions in the country; and

15 WHEREAS, the film industry in Georgia has grown exponentially over the past decade,
16 including the rise in membership within Local 479 from a few hundred members 20 years
17 ago to almost 7,000 current members; and

18 WHEREAS, concurrent with union membership, the Georgia Department of Economic
19 Development reported that the film industry recorded a blockbuster year in Georgia during
20 State Fiscal Year 2021 when the film and television industry set a new record with \$4 billion
21 in direct spending on productions in the state; and

22 WHEREAS, former Governor Nathan Dean recognized the role Mike Akins has played
23 within the film industry and appointed him to the initial Governor's Advisory Committee on
24 Film, Music, and Digital Entertainment, and this appointment has continued under Governor
25 Brian Kemp; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Akins has been an inspiration to those within the film industry for his work
27 ethic, his vision, his commitment to organized labor, and his deep concern for his fellow
28 citizens; and

29 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the exemplary accomplishments of this leader in the
30 film industry be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize and commend Michael "Mike" Akins for his many
33 valuable contributions on behalf of members of the IATSE, Local 479 in particular, and the
34 film industry in Georgia in general and extend best wishes and continued success in the
35 future.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mike
38 Akins.