

House Resolution 1800

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, Parrish of the 158th, Dempsey of the 13th, Smith of the 70th, Martin of the 49th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones for her extraordinary service
2 to the State of Georgia upon the occasion of her retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones, the longest-serving Speaker Pro Tempore in
4 United States history, is retiring after more than two decades of dedicated service in the
5 Georgia House of Representatives; and

6 WHEREAS, she was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2002 and has
7 faithfully represented portions of North Fulton and East Cherokee, including the
8 communities of Milton, Mountain Park, and parts of Roswell and Alpharetta; and

9 WHEREAS, a trailblazer for women in Georgia politics, she was elected Speaker Pro
10 Tempore in 2010, becoming the first woman to serve in that role and the highest-ranking
11 woman in Georgia legislative history—she was the first and only woman to date to serve as
12 a conferee on the General Assembly's budget, and she further made history by serving as
13 Georgia's first female Speaker of the House during a leadership transition in 2022; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to her election as Speaker Pro Tempore, she served with distinction as
15 Majority Whip and as Chair of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee; and

16 WHEREAS, officially named the "Mother of Milton" by the city's Mayor and Council, she
17 was instrumental in the creation of the City of Milton and led the successful 2006 cityhood
18 referendum; and

19 WHEREAS, her leadership has focused on improving the lives of women in Georgia and has
20 resulted in transformative investments and reforms in K-12 and higher education; and

21 WHEREAS, widely regarded as one of the foremost legislative experts on public education
22 in Georgia, Speaker Pro Tempore Jones has devoted her career to strengthening educational
23 opportunities and outcomes for students across the state; and

24 WHEREAS, through her leadership and dedication, she made possible lasting policy
25 achievements that expanded opportunity for Georgia students, including strengthening the
26 HOPE Scholarship with STEM grade weighting and expanding Georgia's Pre-K program
27 through increased funding for teacher salaries and additional classrooms; and

28 WHEREAS, her work empowered families and strengthened educational access statewide
29 by increasing options for students assigned to low-performing schools and establishing a
30 statewide network of regional public schools serving students at risk of dropping out,
31 creating additional pathways for success for every learner; and

32 WHEREAS, born in Warner Robins, Georgia, she and her husband, Kalin, have called
33 Milton home for more than 25 years, and together they have been blessed with four children
34 and four grandchildren, with a fifth grandchild on the way; and

35 WHEREAS, through her visionary leadership, deep policy expertise, and unwavering
36 commitment to the people of Georgia, Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones has left an enduring
37 legacy of service, innovation, and opportunity that will benefit generations to come.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body recognize and commend Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones for her
40 outstanding career of public service and extend their deepest gratitude and best wishes upon
41 the occasion of her retirement.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
44 Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones.