

House Resolution 1129

By: Representatives Herring of the 145th, Jones of the 143rd, Paris of the 142nd, Washburn of the 144th, Reeves of the 99th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Penny L. Elkins, Ph.D.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Penny L. Elkins, Ph.D., was elected as Mercer University's 19th president,
3 taking office on January 1, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, President Elkins, a life-long educator, has earned the respect and admiration of
5 her colleagues, associates, and students during her more than 30-year career in education;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, President Elkins is not only the first female president in the university's nearly
8 200-year history, but also the first Mercer graduate to serve as president since 1979 and the
9 first Double Bear to serve since 1959; and
- 10 WHEREAS, prior to her election, President Elkins served as Mercer University's senior vice
11 president for enrollment management, leading the university in achieving record-breaking
12 enrollment growth, including an 80 percent increase in freshman enrollment and 47 percent
13 increase in the total residential undergraduate student population; and

14 WHEREAS, during her remarkable tenure at Mercer, Dr. Elkins has led several
15 cross-functional and interdisciplinary initiatives and was instrumental in the creation of the
16 Department of Educational Leadership and the first doctoral program in the College of
17 Education; and

18 WHEREAS, President Elkins' significant organizational and leadership talents, remarkable
19 patience and diplomacy, keen sense of vision, and sensitivity to the needs of her students and
20 staff have earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and associates; and

21 WHEREAS, she is a person of exceptional strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
22 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

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

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize and commend Penny L. Elkins, Ph.D. for her lifetime
27 of dedicated service, congratulate her upon being elected President of Mercer University, and
28 extend best wishes for her continued health, happiness, and success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Penny
31 L. Elkins, Ph.D.