

HJR33 INTRODUCED



1 HJR33
2 ILYAW6Z-1
3 By Representatives Shedd, Almond, Bolton, Lamb, McCampbell,
4 Brinyark, Travis, Harbison
5 RFD: RULES
6 First Read: 13-Feb-24



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HJR___ COMMENDING FINIS ST. JOHN IV FOR HIS SELECTION TO SERVE AS THE INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations are proudly presented to Finis St. John IV for being selected to serve as the inaugural executive director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at The University of Alabama, beginning April 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Finis "Fess" St. John IV has served since 2018 as The University of Alabama (UA) System Chancellor; in his role as UA System chancellor, St. John has successfully managed one of Alabama's largest employers and the State of Alabama's largest higher education enterprise; the UA System is comprised of three dynamic research universities, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville, as well as the UAB Health System; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as chancellor, the UA System's annual economic impact on the State of Alabama surpassed \$15 billion, and annual research and development expenditures increased by nearly 40% to over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chancellor St. John spearheaded a comprehensive health and safety program



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29 that enabled the successful reopening of the UA System's
30 campuses; despite national trends, enrollment across the UA
31 System has remained steady under his leadership; the total
32 number of degrees and certificates awarded has increased,
33 and the number of first-year students who are Alabama
34 residents has increased; and

35 WHEREAS, prior to becoming chancellor, St. John
36 served on The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees
37 for 17 years, including three consecutive terms as President
38 Pro Tempore; during that time, he also practiced law at one
39 of Alabama's oldest law firms, St. John & St. John, LLC, in
40 his hometown of Cullman; he is a cum laude graduate of UA,
41 where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa; he is also a
42 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and a
43 member of the distinguished American College of Trial
44 Lawyers; and

45 WHEREAS, the Shelby Institute is set to open in the
46 fall of 2024; it is supported by a \$20 million endowment and
47 will be a premier student-focused academic and service
48 program concentrating on the education and training of
49 students interested in public policy; around 20
50 undergraduate students will be selected for the inaugural
51 group of the Shelby Scholars Program, each of whom must
52 complete a minor in public policy and will receive
53 scholarship support; and

54 WHEREAS, under Chancellor St. John's wealth of
55 knowledge and leadership experience, students will
56 participate in specialized, policy-focused coursework as



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57 well as unique experiences outside of the classroom,
58 including internship and professional development
59 experiences, national conferences, a speaker series, and
60 interactions with prominent political leaders and policy
61 analysts on a local, state, and national level; and

62 WHEREAS, Finis St. John IV shares the vision of
63 Senator Richard Shelby and Dr. Annette Shelby, both of whom
64 have made a remarkable impact in education and public policy
65 on Alabama's higher education landscape; now therefore,

66 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
67 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Finis St. John IV is honored
68 and commended for his contributions to education and public
69 service through his position as The University of Alabama
70 System Chancellor; and sincere best wishes are offered to
71 him as he assumes the role as the inaugural executive
72 director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership
73 at The University of Alabama.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
75 resolution be presented to Finis St. John IV as a
76 demonstration of our unrivaled gratitude, admiration, and
77 respect.