



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 785

**By Crowe, Haile, Hensley, Watson, Massey, Swann, Briggs; Mr. Speaker McNally;
Jackson, Kyle**

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Attorney Jess O. Hale on the occasion of his retirement from the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to pay tribute to Jess O. Hale, the legislative attorney who has amazed and confounded legislators with his advanced knowledge of healthcare law during his long tenure with the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Jess O. Hale first came to the Office of Legal Services (OLS) as a session attorney in 1986, during which performance he managed to catch the eye of Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, discerning the shrewd legal talent and vast knowledge behind this young man's affable appearance, Governor McWherter hired Mr. Hale to work as a legislative attorney and policy analyst for the State Planning Office; and

WHEREAS, upon Albert Gore's election to the vice presidency of the United States, former State Treasurer Harlan Matthews, deputy to Governor McWherter, was appointed to fill his U.S. Senate seat, which proved to be a turning point in Mr. Hale's career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hale went to Washington with Senator Matthews, and during their tenure on Capitol Hill, the pair caused no more harm than your average victim of Potomac Fever; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home to Tennessee, Jess O. Hale once again reenlisted in the OLS Corps, this time for a near-lifetime assignment; and

WHEREAS, since that fateful day in 1995 when he returned to the Tennessee State Capitol, coffee in hand, Jess O. Hale has distinguished himself as a gifted legislative attorney and a sausage-making production line worker of rare ability; and

WHEREAS, Jess O. Hale has specialized in healthcare during his second tenure with the legislature, serving as the OLS attorney for the Senate Health and Welfare Committee for twenty-two exasperating years and its House counterpart for nearly as long, and has played a vital role in the travails of formulating healthcare policy for the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as an affiliate faculty member in Public Administration, Ethics, and Leadership at Johnson University and an associate commissioner with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws; and

WHEREAS, both a scholar and a gentleman, Mr. Hale has made many presentations and has been published extensively on legal, legislative, religious, ethical, and healthcare issues; and

WHEREAS, a genuinely kind person, Jess Hale has generously and patiently provided mentorship to many attorneys and research analysts over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hale's ability to deal with rush bill and amendment requests are a thing of legend; to this day, interns bringing rush requests to OLS are simply told "Go to Hale"; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member of the American Constitution Society, Mr. Hale often has a different opinion than the Attorney General on the subject of captions; and

WHEREAS, renowned throughout the legislature as a fashionista, he always wears a Three Stooges tie to staff meetings in honor of his dear departed colleagues, Dewey, Cheatham, and Howe; and

WHEREAS, Jess is the devoted dog dad of Hazel and Erma, both of whom are eager for his retirement to commence, as they are infinitely weary of doggie daycare; and

WHEREAS, an honors graduate of Johnson University and an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Jess O. Hale holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy Studies from the Duke University Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University Divinity College, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence with Honors from the University of Tennessee School of Law; and

WHEREAS, although we will miss pardoning his interruptions, we are happy that Mr. Hale will now have more time to drink Woodford, spoil his hound dogs, stepchildren, and grandchildren, and support Duke University and the Baltimore Orioles (rumor has it that his middle initial O stands for Orioles); and

WHEREAS, Jess Hale and his gentle and humble wisdom will be profoundly missed by both the members of the General Assembly and his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Attorney Jess O. Hale on the occasion of his retirement from the General Assembly, thank him for his loyal service to the legislative process, and extend to this fine fellow our best wishes for much continued success and happiness as he explores the greener pastures of the gainfully unemployed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Attorney Hale as a token of our esteem and envy.

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ADOPTED: April 5, 2018



RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 9th day of April 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR