

## Senate Resolution 365

By: Senators James of the 35th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Rhett of the 33rd, Orrock of the 36th and Parent of the 42nd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Hamilton Frederick Bohannon for 50 years in the music industry; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a major contributor to the world of contemporary black music, Hamilton  
4 Bohannon, pka-BOHANNON, is a multi-talented recording artist, songwriter, producer,  
5 author, percussionist, and musician; he was born of Native American/Black American  
6 descent to Willie and Sarah Bohannon in Newnan, Georgia; he attended Clark College, now  
7 Clark Atlanta University, and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity; after graduating  
8 from Clark College with a degree in music and secondary education, he was offered a music  
9 scholarship in percussion to attend Indiana University but instead taught public school;  
10 during his childhood, he became the first elementary student to play in the high school band  
11 and played in the band director's, Mr. William Jones', dance band; and after entering into the  
12 eighth grade at age 13, he organized his own dance band, The Bop Dads, that played for teen  
13 dances, school dances, and proms, while playing in the high school band; and

14 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, he attended Clark College where he  
15 organized a dance band and played for college dances; Clark College is located in Atlanta,  
16 Georgia, and was surrounded by several venues and clubs where he met some outstanding  
17 musicians and began to play drums with some of them, including the outstanding musician,  
18 Jimi Hendrix, and they played together while both lived in Atlanta; Bohannon also played  
19 with Hank Moore, former bandleader for the famous Hank Ballard and the Midnighters; after  
20 retiring from Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, Hank Moore became bandleader at the  
21 famous Royal Peacock and hired Bohannon for his drummer; all of the top R&B artists  
22 performed at the Royal Peacock, such as Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, B.B. King, Dinah  
23 Washington, Little Richard, Jerry Butler, Patti LaBelle and the Blue Bells, Gladys Knight  
24 and the Pips, and many more; Bohannon also played with one of his high school band  
25 directors, Paul Mitchell of the Paul Mitchell Modern Jazz Trio, which was the house band  
26 at the La Carousel, the number one jazz club in Atlanta; other known jazz groups featured  
27 there were Horace Silver, The Three Sounds, Cannon Ball Adderly, Wynton Kelly Trio,

28 Ramsey Lewis, and several more; and after graduating from Clark College, he taught public  
29 school in LaGrange, Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1965, Bohannon left the school system to play drums for Stevie Wonder, a  
31 three-year stint which led to Bohannon becoming bandleader at Motown Records from  
32 1967-1972, during which time the name of his band was Bohannon and the Motown Sound  
33 who backed all of the Motown artists in live concerts, including Smokey Robinson and the  
34 Miracles, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Martha and the  
35 Vandellas, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Diana Ross and the Supremes, and the rest of  
36 Motown's artists; after Motown relocated to Los Angeles, California, in 1972, Bohannon  
37 formed a self-contained band consisting of Ray Parker, Jr., Leroy Emmanuel, Eddie Watkins,  
38 Travis Biggs, Fernando Saunders, Ricardo Rouse, Nimrod Lumpkin, Lorenzo Brown,  
39 vocalist Carolyn Crawford (a.k.a. Caroline) and signed with Dakar/Brunswick Record  
40 Company in 1973, and had several classics, including Foot Stomping Music, Thoughts and  
41 Wishes, Have A Good Day, South African Man, Disco Stomp, and Bohannon's Beat; in  
42 1975, Bohannon became the first artist to have two different Top Ten songs on the Top of  
43 the Pops Charts in the UK at the same time since The Beatles; in Berlin, Germany, a night  
44 club was named in honor of Bohannon, the Bohannon Soul Club located in downtown  
45 Berlin; after leaving Dakar/Brunswick, he signed with Mercury Records and had another  
46 classic, Let's Start The Dance, which is the longest playing dance song since 1978; and in  
47 1980, he started his own record label and signed The Originals, a former group from  
48 Motown, Liz Lands, and Bohannon; and

49 WHEREAS, he has pioneered three genres of music: disco, house, and hip hop, and his style  
50 of music by keeping four on the floor led to modern dance music; since the early seventies,  
51 Bohannon has charted Billboard's top 100 R&B singles 41 times and Top 100 R&B albums  
52 nine times; he has penned several movie sound tracks including *Sword Fish* and *Daddy's*  
53 *Little Girls* by the great Tyler Perry, several television shows, background music for  
54 Entertainment Tonight, commercials, and films; in 2012, Bohannon was the first artist at his  
55 age to have a Top Ten song on the National Dance Charts in the UK which peaked at number  
56 seven; over 150 of today's artists have sampled Bohannon's music, including Jay Z, Mary J.  
57 Blige, P Diddy, Snoop Dogg, Heavy D, Justin Timberlake, and several more; in 2013,  
58 Bohannon was a writer on one of the songs on Justin Timberlake's album, *20/20 experience*,  
59 which was the biggest album in sales worldwide and received double platinum records, over  
60 four million sold; also in 2013, he received the Walk of Fame Hollywood Star, which his  
61 former band member, Ray Parker, Jr., was also awarded, whom Bohannon discovered and  
62 added to his band when Ray was 17 years old, and Ray shared his Walk Of Fame Award

63 with Bohannon; and Bohannon has an audio book in all of the Atlanta Public School libraries  
64 entitled, *Bohannon Speaks from the Beginning*.

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
66 commend Hamilton Frederick Bohannon for 50 years in the music industry.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
68 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Hamilton  
69 Frederick Bohannon.