

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Deniece Williams as one of the greatest voices of soul and talented musicians to come from the state of Indiana.

MELTON

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 123rd General Assembly (2023)

SENATE RESOLUTION _____

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Deniece Williams as
2 one of the greatest voices of soul and talented musicians to
3 come from the state of Indiana.

4 *Whereas, Deniece Williams, described as "one of the great*
5 *soul voices," is a four-time Grammy winner with thirteen total*
6 *nominations and has an illustrious career as one of the most*
7 *talented singers, songwriters, and producers to come from the*
8 *state of Indiana;*

9 *Whereas, Born in 1951 and raised by Lee and Alma*
10 *Chandler in Gary, Indiana, Deniece Williams began her*
11 *journey to stardom as a child in the choir at the Church of God*
12 *in Christ, playing the flute and singing for the Chicago-based*
13 *girl group, The Lovelites, while attending Tolleston High*
14 *School in Gary;*

15 *Whereas, Deniece Williams started her professional career*
16 *as a backup vocalist in Stevie Wonder's band, Wonderlove, and*
17 *in 1976 debuted her first solo album, This is Niecy, which*
18 *achieved gold record status and sold more than 500,000 copies,*
19 *with the single "Free" peaking at the number 1 spot on the*
20 *British Singles chart, number 2 on the Billboard R&B Singles*

2023

DR 3834/DI TB



1 *chart, and number 25 on the Billboard Hot 100;*

2 *Whereas, In 1978, Deniece Williams collaborated with the*
3 *renowned Johnny Mathis to record "Too Much, Too Little, Too*
4 *Late" and "You're All I Need to Get By," both earning the*
5 *number 1 spot on the R&B chart, while also cooperating to*
6 *produce the theme song, "Without Us," for the hit show Family*
7 *Ties;*

8 *Whereas, Deniece Williams, in 1984, released the album*
9 *Let's Hear It For the Boy, along with the iconic song of the*
10 *same name that was featured in the soundtrack for the movie*
11 *Footloose and reached number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100,*
12 *remaining there for eight weeks, selling more than one million*
13 *copies, and becoming her biggest hit;*

14 *Whereas, Deniece Williams' gospel music received*
15 *overwhelming acclaim, garnering her first Grammy wins for*
16 *Best Female Soul Gospel Performance for "I Surrender All"*
17 *and Best Duo or Group Gospel Performance for the single*
18 *"They Say" in 1987, and she went on to win Best Female*
19 *Gospel Performance for "I Believe In You" in 1988 for Best*
20 *Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album in 1999 for her album This*
21 *Is My Song;*

22 *Whereas, During the heights of her notable career, Deniece*
23 *Williams raised four children, Forrest, Logan, Kendrick, and*
24 *Kevin;*

25 *Whereas, Deniece Williams serves as Executive Producer*
26 *for the musical titled Live At the Crescendo Club, showcasing*
27 *the music of legendary Black female singers like Ella*
28 *Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Pearl Bailey;*

29 *Whereas, Forty-six years since releasing her first album,*
30 *Deniece Williams still commands a breathtaking, multi-octave*
31 *soprano, demonstrating her unfading talent with the release of*
32 *her EP Gemini in 2021, and is currently on tour; and*



1 *Whereas, Deniece Williams' resounding success honors her*
2 *home state of Indiana and home town of Gary, inspiring others*
3 *to fearlessly pursue their ambitions while she continues to*
4 *share her generational talent and breathtaking vocals with the*
5 *world: Therefore,*

6 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
7 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

8 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate honors Deniece
9 Williams as one of the greatest voices of soul and talented
10 musicians to come from the state of Indiana.

11 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
12 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Deniece Williams.

