

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 228

By Reeves

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the City of Lewisburg upon its recognition as one of the Most Dynamic Micropolitans in the country.

WHEREAS, it is the distinct pleasure of this General Assembly to acknowledge those vibrant Tennessee cities that are thriving as a result of their dedication to the well-being and prosperity of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lewisburg was recently recognized as one of the Most Dynamic Micropolitans in the country by the Walton Family Foundation, a designation that highlights the great strides Lewisburg is making toward becoming one of the best places to live and work in this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Family Foundation sponsored a study that resulted in the Most Dynamic Micropolitans Index, which attempts to bridge a gap in identifying which smaller communities are thriving and which are struggling to provide economic support for their residents; Most Dynamic Micropolitans is an objective, outcome-based measure of the performance of micropolitan areas across the nation; and

WHEREAS, "micropolitan statistical area" is defined as a geographical area consisting of one or more counties with one city comprised of at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000 in population; the analysis conducted by the Walton Family Foundation identified 531 micropolitan areas within the United States; and

WHEREAS, Lewisburg was recognized as the fourteenth Most Dynamic Micropolitan in the country, based on performance-based metrics such as job growth, wage and income gains, and young firm employment; it was the only Tennessee city to be named in the top twenty; and

WHEREAS, roughly halfway between the growing metros of Nashville, Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama, the small town of 32,931 citizens has itself become an enticing environment for manufacturing companies; and

WHEREAS, the local government economic development group of Lewisburg has actively advertised the city to manufacturers, with a webpage containing information on the explicit process to receive tax incentives, the area's workforce characteristics, and the types of manufacturers the developers are most interested in; and

WHEREAS, from 2012 to 2016, nine of Lewisburg's eleven largest employers have located in the city or have expanded existing operations there; in mid-2017, Chinese company Minth Group, an automotive parts supplier, announced plans to invest over \$13 million in a new manufacturing facility in Lewisburg, creating 200 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, this growth has resulted in strong performances across multiple index components; of the 531 micropolitans assessed, Lewisburg ranked 197th in Young Firm Employment, 360th in Per-Capita Personal Income, 10th in Medium-Term Job Growth, 275th in Short-Term Job Growth, 2nd in Medium-Term Average Annual Pay Growth, 12th in Short-Term Average Annual Pay Growth, 44th in Medium-Term Personal Income Growth, and 181st in Short-Term Personal Income Growth; and

WHEREAS, Lewisburg is one of Tennessee's finest cities, wholly devoted to the well-being and prosperity of its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the City of Lewisburg upon its recognition as one of the Most Dynamic Micropolitans in the country, extending our best wishes for the city's continued success and prosperity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.