HIR _____ COMMENDING HELEN FRANCES HANBY FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Helen Frances Hanby began her invaluable service to the State of Alabama in 1983 when she joined the staff of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service, assisting in the implementation of Alabama's new Administrative Procedure Act; subsequently, Ms. Hanby assumed a myriad of essential duties with the Legislative Reference Service, and its successor, the Legislative Services Agency, where she has worked for over 38 years, becoming one of the longest continuously-serving employees in the history of the agency; and

WHEREAS, having earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in History from Auburn University, Ms. Hanby never dreamed her career would center around the legal intricacies of the Alabama Legislature, which include bill preparation, proofing, cataloguing, and codification, as well as the multitude of constitutional requirements that must be satisfied for legislation to become law; one of the last
surviving employees of the old State Capitol crew, she is a free-flowing fountain of institutional knowledge, a literal and literary know-it-all who can drown legislators, staff, and the legislative community with historical context of the peculiarities of our legislative process, as well as vital information needed to preserve and perpetuate precedent and sustain stability in Alabama's ever-evolving political machinations; indeed, Ms. Hanby is likely the only person in this state who has actually read every code section and constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, as the agency's librarian, she excels in telling people where to go, both literally and figuratively, as this woman does not readily suffer fools; Helen is the only employee who could answer such perplexing questions as: "What's an Oxford comma?"; "Who's Big Bertha?"; "What's the possessive of this noun?"; "Is this the correct verb tense?"; "Why won't my computer work?"; "What is necessary to file a motion to amend rules?"; "What's the number of this constitutional amendment?"; "Which function was better, the Bayou La Batre seafood dinner or the Alabama Poultry Association omelette breakfast?"; and, as was asked during the drafting of this clause, "Does the semicolon go inside or outside the quotation marks?"; moreover, she was the final say for less technical queries, such as: "What is a 'girl Friday'?"; "Why do you know so much about the vernal equinox?"; "How is the weather?"; "How is the weather going to be in 15 minutes?"; "Is Angela on the sit-com 'The Office'
WHEREAS, Granny Grammar's favorite book is a 10th grade English textbook, and we surmise she knows not only the chapters, but the pages and paragraphs that explain how to treat a gerund or a split infinitive, and when it is okay for a participle to dangle and why the passive voice lacks passion; she is the undisputed final judge on all questions of grammar and sentence structure; her absolute adherence to doing it correctly has long been the final line of defense in ensuring statutes are clear, precise, and properly punctuated; indeed, many an attorney continues to receive a pay check because a magical fairy with initials "H.H." fixed their screw-ups; her research talents rival those of the Library of Congress, and her cataloguing skills could rival those of the Library of Alexandria; she excels in finding obscure code language and obtuse case law long thought not to exist; she is a West Law Wizard to those old-timers who are technologically challenged; she is the authority on "Helen's four Hs": hyphens, hierarchy, history, and hygiene; she hates a messy workplace like she hates a messy kitchen; Helen is an essential employee in the truest sense, an invaluable confidant and "girl Friday" for her boss, and one of the rare individuals who can keep private matters private; and

WHEREAS, as keeper of office decorum and ardent arbiter of professionalism, her advocacy of a professional
dress code has resulted in Ms. Hanby being given the cold shoulder for not allowing the cold shoulder; this wardrobe warden believes leggings belong on the cavalry, not legislative staffers - don't chap her on this; her distaste of a particular footwear will not be flip-flopping any time soon; her essential, but non-enviable daily duties also included writing thank you notes on behalf of the staff; arranging menus, meals, memos, and meetings; keeping track of office keys, cards, files, parking places, books, and artifacts; and basically ensuring the smooth functioning of a mid-size bureaucracy, including preserving the sanity of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hanby bleeds orange and blue; this AU alumna follows all things Auburn; she knows the roster not only of the football and basketball teams, but also of the softball, baseball, volleyball, gymnastics, and swimming teams; who needs a schedule when Helen is around?; she is equally proud of the academic achievements of her institution; she is so hardcore Auburn that she refuses to read her six-year-old great-niece a children's story about an elephant, the only bird she tolerates is a War Eagle, her favorite jewelry is Bruce Pearls, and she won't play corn hole if she has to use Alabama bean bags; if you think she gets grumpy when a special session is called, just approach her after a Tiger loss; and

WHEREAS, her personal life intentionally remains intensely personal; however, we do know all of the following:
She is a Jeopardy Junkie who could give Ken Jennings a run for his money, and she is everyone's ideal "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" phone-a-friend; she is the reigning office trivia champion; she enjoys reading, especially historical tomes about World War II - perhaps they remind her of Alabama politics; she is an internationally-renowned expert on "Mad Men", a Don Draper disciple who can tell you the brand of cigarettes he smoked - "Lucky Strikes - It's Toasted!"; she endures an insufferable cable bill so she can watch her Atlanta Braves, the Weather Channel, and HGTV; her 11:00 lunchtime is more predictable than "Old Faithful," and although she has the fortitude to abstain from the many free sweet treats around the office, if a potato chip makes its way to the sixth floor, she "has to have 'em"; she enjoys collecting all things vintage, especially household gadgets and Christmas decorations; she spoils her niece and nephew and great-niece and great-nephew to a fault; and although she believes in heaven, she seems to think there is a second one in Orlando called Disney World; and

WHEREAS, as we recount these skills and talents, we wonder how her office will function without this petite lady who talks fast and reads faster, and who either possesses, or could rapidly find, the right answer to any inquiry; who is never shy about telling her boss what was really needed; and who ensured this agency did the right thing and looked good while doing it; the value of her service to her contemporaries, the Legislative Services Agency, and this
legislative body is incalculable, and she will be woefully missed; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Ms. Helen F. Hanby is highly commended for exceptional service to the Alabama Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency, and the people of Alabama; we direct that a copy of this resolution be delivered to Ms. Hanby as a token of our immense gratitude, and wish the utmost blessings of good health and happiness to her and her family.