

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATORS LONG, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, G. SMITH, J. SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Patrick Sean Payton upon his return as the New Orleans Saints head coach.

WHEREAS, Patrick Sean Payton was born in San Mateo, California, raised in Naperville, Illinois, by parents Thomas and Jeanne Payton, and has two children, daughter Meghan and son Connor; and

WHEREAS, Sean Payton was a quarterback at Naperville Central High School, and, after winning a scholarship, he successfully played quarterback at Eastern Illinois University, leading the Panthers to an 11-2 record and the quarter finals of the Division I-AA Playoffs in 1986, and was elected to the Eastern Illinois Hall of Fame in September 2000; and

WHEREAS, although not drafted in 1987 into the National Football League (NFL), he tried out for the Kansas City Chiefs for one day, and played quarterback for the Chicago Bruisers and Pittsburgh Gladiators during the inaugural season of the Arena Football League; and

WHEREAS, he was also a member of the Chicago Bears as one of the strikebreaking replacement players, known as the "Spare Bears", during the 1987 NFL players strike where, coincidentally, his one interception came against the New Orleans Saints; and

WHEREAS, he began his coaching career as the offensive assistant coach for San Diego State University and had several assistant coaching positions in the NFL, including the quarterbacks coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, assistant coach for the New York Giants, and assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys before being named as the tenth coach in Saints

history; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Saints finished the 2005 season with a disappointing 3-13 record, but in 2006, Coach Payton joined the franchise as head coach and aggressively worked and motivated the team to a winning 10-6 record and their first playoff appearance in six years; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his team's dramatic improvement and inspirational play, Coach Payton was selected as the 2006 Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, he aggressively coached the Saints to their most successful season, with a 13-3 regular season record and a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV - the first professional football championship for the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, and the Saints franchise; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Coach Payton led the Saints to an 11-5 record and their second consecutive post-season appearance, becoming only the second coach in franchise history to post three double-digit winning seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Payton followed up in 2011, leading the Saints to another 13-3 record, their third consecutive post-season appearance, and the fourth post-season appearance in his six years with the franchise; and

WHEREAS, during the 2009, 2010, and 2011 seasons, coached by Sean Payton, the Saints won 41 regular-season and playoff games combined, more than any other team in the NFL; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Coach Payton, who guided the most successful period in Saints franchise history, signed a five-year contract extension as head coach at a time when most experts would agree that he would have become the most coveted available coach in the NFL if allowed to become a free agent; and

WHEREAS, it brings great joy and hope to the numerous fans and supporters of Saints football to know that when the season starts in the fall of 2013, Coach Payton will once again be on the sidelines leading and inspiring the players and coaches; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sean Payton has proven to be a leader and a catalyst who motivates athletes to work together, exceed personal expectations, attempt seemingly unattainable goals, and perform as a team made of many cohesive parts.

SR NO. 68

ENROLLED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Coach Payton upon his return as head coach of the New Orleans Saints.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Coach Sean Payton.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE