

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATOR THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which founded the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

WHEREAS, May 8, 2014, marks the centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act (Act of May 8, 1914, Ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), which established the Cooperative Extension System, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and United States Representative A. F. Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the "vocational, agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America" by bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant universities to people where they live and work; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension is a critical component of the three-part land-grant university mission which works collaboratively with the Agricultural Experiment Station System, and academic programs in 106 colleges and universities, including historically black, Native American, and Hispanic-serving institutions to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal leadership and support enabled by the Smith-Lever Act and through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension's research-based education for farmers and ranchers helped establish the United States as a leading agricultural-producing nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, since 1924, when the clover emblem was adopted by the USDA to represent 4-H, cooperative extension's nationwide youth development program has reached millions of youth and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension prepares people for healthy, productive lives through sustained education, such as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension provides rapid response to disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network by providing real-time alerts and resources so extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks, and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock and crops; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension translates science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks where educators are available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find answers, and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions; and

WHEREAS, cooperative extension engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next generation of leaders; and

WHEREAS, many states are celebrating the centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act with resolutions and proclamations, and many land-grant institutions also are commemorating the signing of the historic legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Extension Service was established in Louisiana on July 23, 1914, when Louisiana State University President Thomas D. Boyd approved the memorandum of understanding between Louisiana State University Agricultural and Mechanical College and the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, now the Louisiana State University AgCenter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension

nationwide and encourages the people of the state of Louisiana to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for cooperative extension.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana honors the university faculty and local educators who dedicate their careers to providing trusted education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future for all Louisianians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES