

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATOR LONG

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Sean Payton upon his return as the New Orleans Saints head coach.

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

1 Diego State University and had several assistant coaching positions in the NFL, including
2 the quarterbacks coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, assistant coach for the New York Giants,
3 and assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys before being named as the tenth coach in Saints
4 history; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Long

SR No. 68

Commends Coach Sean Payton upon his return as head coach of the New Orleans Saints.