

By: Senators G. Leding, B. Johnson

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL) FOR ITS LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL) FOR ITS LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTION ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025.

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was founded in 1975 and has evolved during the past half-century to become the premier organization solely dedicated to serving state and territorial legislators and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was created from the merger of three (3) organizations that:

- (1) Served or represented state legislatures; and
- (2) Believed that legislative service is one (1) of democracy's worthiest pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is a bipartisan organization with three (3) objectives to:

- (1) Advance the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of state legislatures;



- (2) Foster interstate communication and cooperation; and
- (3) Ensure states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures are:

- (1) America’s laboratories of democracy;
- (2) The bodies to tackle emerging challenges; and
- (3) Where people from different backgrounds, representing different communities, can come together and find common ground; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL):

- (1) Has facilitated the exchange of ideas, provided critical research and information, and encouraged a rigorous review of complex issues confronting our communities, states, and nation; and
- (2) Strives to strengthen the bonds between America’s state legislatures and the international community; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has played an active role in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and several Arkansas State Senators have served on various National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) committees and task forces throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Ann Cornwell, Director and Secretary of the Senate, has served on the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Committee and is a past president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, one (1) of the staff associations within the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Sabrina NeKay Evelyn Lewellen, Deputy Director and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, became the first African-American woman and the first Arkansan to be elected to serve as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Staff Chair in the history of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL),

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

    THAT the Senate recognize and commend the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) for its leadership and commitment to the legislative institution on its fiftieth anniversary in 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be provided to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).