

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Jacob W. "Jake" Oakman for his distinguished service to Indiana's tourism, sports, and cultural institutions.

WALKER K

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION _____

MR. PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Jacob W. "Jake"
2 Oakman for his distinguished service to Indiana's tourism,
3 sports, and cultural institutions.

4 *Whereas, Jacob W. Oakman has devoted more than two*
5 *decades to advancing Indiana's tourism, sports, and cultural*
6 *assets through leadership roles in state government, nonprofit*
7 *institutions, and destination marketing organizations;*

8 *Whereas, Oakman currently serves as Senior Vice*
9 *President of External Relations for the Indianapolis Zoo, where*
10 *he leads public relations, marketing, government affairs,*
11 *institutional advancement, and community engagement efforts,*
12 *and where he oversaw the successful completion of a \$53*
13 *million capital campaign, the largest in the Zoo's history;*

14 *Whereas, From 2022 to 2025, Oakman served as Executive*
15 *Director of the White River State Park Development*
16 *Commission, leading a 250-acre cultural attraction that*
17 *welcomes more than four million visitors annually, and where*
18 *he began a \$65 million park expansion, secured a \$30 million*
19 *grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., and developed and executed*
20 *a comprehensive deferred maintenance and infrastructure*



1 *improvement program ultimately leading the park to record*
2 *visitation and revenue;*

3 *Whereas, Oakman's career reflects a unique integration of*
4 *tourism promotion, sports marketing, and public service,*
5 *including early professional experience with the Indianapolis*
6 *Indians baseball organization, where he was a top-performing*
7 *ticket sales executive, and later service with the Indiana Office*
8 *of Tourism Development, where he helped shape statewide*
9 *branding, national media outreach, and the Indiana*
10 *Bicentennial Torch Relay;*

11 *Whereas, Oakman served the State of Indiana at the highest*
12 *levels of executive leadership, including as Deputy Press*
13 *Secretary to Governor Mitch Daniels and as Director of*
14 *Communications, Speechwriter, and senior advisor to*
15 *Governor Eric Holcomb, contributing to domestic and*
16 *international engagement efforts and to gubernatorial*
17 *administrations marked by economic growth and global*
18 *outreach;*

19 *Whereas, Oakman's public service has been complemented*
20 *by extensive civic and nonprofit leadership, including service*
21 *on the boards or commissions of Visit Indy, Downtown Indy,*
22 *Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, the Indiana University*
23 *Athletics Committee, and the National Institute for Fitness and*
24 *Sport, strengthening Indiana's cultural, athletic, and downtown*
25 *development ecosystems;*

26 *Whereas, A proud graduate of Indiana University, Oakman*
27 *earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and was*
28 *elected student body president his senior year, then continued*
29 *his education with a Master of Business Administration from*
30 *the University of Southern Indiana, reflecting a lifelong*
31 *commitment to leadership, public engagement, and Hoosier*
32 *institutions; and*

33 *Whereas, In recognition of his exemplary service, Oakman*



1 *has been honored with the Sagamore of the Wabash and the*
2 *Governor's Distinguished Service Medal, among other*
3 *accolades: Therefore,*

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
5 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

6 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate honors Jacob W.
7 "Jake" Oakman for his outstanding leadership and lasting
8 contributions to Indiana's tourism, sports, cultural, and civic
9 life, and commends him for strengthening the state's reputation
10 as a destination for visitors, residents, and businesses alike.

11 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
12 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Jacob W. Oakman.

