

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



Introduced

Second Regular Session 124th General Assembly (2026)

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*

2026

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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.

