



2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

February 26, 2024 - Introduced by Senators WANGGAARD and L. JOHNSON, cosponsored by Representatives HAYWOOD and DRAKE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the service of former Wisconsin State Senator Lena C. Taylor.

2 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor, a distinguished public servant, was elected to the
3 Wisconsin Assembly in a special election in 2003 and the state senate in 2004, where
4 she served until 2024 before being appointed as a Wisconsin circuit court judge for
5 Milwaukee County; and

6 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor is a graduate of Rufus King High School and the
7 University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she became a member of the Alpha
8 Kappa Alpha sorority; and

9 Whereas, Senator Taylor earned her juris doctor from Southern Illinois
10 University School of Law in 1993; and

11 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor, after graduating from law school, worked as a public
12 defender representing low-income and underrepresented citizens in Milwaukee and
13 ultimately opened a general practice firm on the north side of Milwaukee, Taylor and
14 Associates Law Office, in 1996; and

1 Whereas, in 2004, Lena C. Taylor succeeded Congresswoman Gwen Moore in
2 Wisconsin's 4th Senate District; and

3 Whereas, Senator Taylor served several terms on the Joint Committee on
4 Finance, including one term as cochair, becoming the first Black woman to hold the
5 position; and

6 Whereas, Senator Taylor also served as the chair of the Senate Committee on
7 Judiciary and Corrections in the 2007-08 legislative session, where she worked
8 tirelessly for state criminal justice reform; and

9 Whereas, Senator Taylor also served on other senate standing committees
10 during her time in the legislature, including Agriculture, Small Business, and
11 Tourism; Judiciary and Public Safety; Utilities and Housing; Insurance, Financial
12 Services, Government Oversight, and Courts; and Insurance, Licensing, and
13 Forestry; and

14 Whereas, Senator Taylor served on multiple joint legislative committees, such
15 as Joint Legislative Council, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties, the
16 Law Revision Committee, the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, and the
17 Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations; and

18 Whereas, Senator Taylor was also a part of several study committees, serving
19 as the vice-chair of the Study Committee on Child Placement and Support and the
20 Study Committee on the Investment and Use of School Trust Funds and as a member
21 of the Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities; and

22 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor is known by her colleagues for working with both
23 Democrats and Republicans to pass important legislation to improve the lives of
24 members of her community and constituency; and

