

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE RESOLUTION 2167

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Calendar 6-25-08.

June 19, 2008

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR.
2 OLIVER SMITHIES, 2007 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER.

3 Whereas, Dr. Oliver Smithies grew up in Yorkshire, England, and attended
4 Oxford University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in physiology and a
5 master's degree and doctorate in biochemistry; and

6 Whereas, Dr. Smithies began his career at Connaught Medical Research
7 Laboratory in Toronto, Canada, where he worked from 1953 to 1960, and during which
8 time he invented a method of separating proteins to identify genes, a technique that
9 became a standard in most laboratories; and

10 Whereas, Dr. Smithies worked at the University of Wisconsin at Madison
11 from 1960 to 1988 and during his tenure there co-discovered a method of introducing
12 DNA material into cells and replicated a natural process called homologous DNA
13 recombination; and

14 Whereas, Dr. Smithies' laboratory also produced the first animal model of
15 cystic fibrosis; and

16 Whereas, in 1988, Dr. Smithies joined the faculty of the School of Medicine
17 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is currently an Excellence
18 Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; and

19 Whereas, while at UNC-CH, Dr. Smithies has worked on developing animal
20 models for studying gene therapy in hypertension and other genetic disorders, including
21 sickle cell disease; and

22 Whereas, Dr. Smithies has published numerous articles and books on his
23 research and has been elected to various scientific organizations, including the United
24 States National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences,
25 American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the United States Institute
26 of Medicine; and

27 Whereas, Dr. Smithies has received many honors and awards for his
28 significant contributions to science and medicine, including the following: Gairdner
29 Foundation International Award for contributions to medical science in 1990; North
30 Carolina Award for Science in 1993; American Association of Medical Colleges' Award

1 for Distinguished Research in 1998; O. Max Gardner Award in 2002; Wolf Prize in
2 Medicine in 2003; and the Genetics Society of America's 2007 Thomas Hunt Morgan
3 Medal given for lifetime contributions to the field of genetics in 2008; and

4 Whereas, on October 8, 2007, the Nobel Foundation announced that Dr.
5 Oliver Smithies, Mario R. Capecchi of the University of Utah's Howard Hughes
6 Medical Institute, and Sir Martin J. Evans of the United Kingdom would share the
7 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine "for their discoveries of principles for
8 introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells";
9 and

10 Whereas, Dr. Smithies became the first full-time faculty member at the
11 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to win a Nobel Prize; and

12 Whereas, Dr. Smithies' dedication and contributions to genetic research have
13 earned him the respect and admiration of his peers and the citizens of this State; Now,
14 therefore,

15 Be it resolved by the Senate:

16 **SECTION 1.** The Senate congratulates Dr. Oliver Smithies on winning the
17 2007 Nobel Prize and declares him a North Carolina institution.

18 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this
19 resolution to Dr. Oliver Smithies.

20 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.