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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 438

Offered February 17, 2025

Commending Shaboozey.

Patrons—McPike, McDougle, Obenshain, Pillion and Roem

WHEREAS, Collins Obinna Chibueze, a native of Prince William County better known as Shaboozey, has helped reshape the American music industry and received great acclaim for his visionary blend of different musical styles, incorporating country, hip-hop, rock, funk, and bluegrass to create ear-catching hits; and

WHEREAS, Shaboozey attended Gar-Field High School in Prince William County, and gained his nickname, now his professional stage name, when a coach on his high school football team struggled to pronounce his last name; and

WHEREAS, Shaboozey developed his love of country music from his father, a Nigerian immigrant who initially settled in Texas and drew connections between the themes of country music with rural life in Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Gar-Field High School, Shaboozey began to pursue a career as a recording artist and released his first single, "Jeff Gordon," in 2014, then released his debut studio album *Lady Wrangler* in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Shaboozey gained further recognition when he was asked to sing the hook on "Start a Riot" by rapper Duckwrth, which was featured on the soundtrack for *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* and again when he sang with Beyoncé on her country album *Cowboy Carter*; he released his second studio album, *Cowboys Live Forever, Outlaws Never Die*, in 2022 and his third studio album, *Where I've Been, Isn't Where I'm Going*, which included his breakout hit, "A Bar Song (Topsy)," in 2024; and

WHEREAS, "A Bar Song (Topsy)" resonated with listeners of all backgrounds across the nation and tied the record for the longest-running number one song of all time with 19 weeks atop the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart; the song exemplifies Shaboozey's musical heritage—a tale of an old-school country music protagonist drowning his sorrows in the local saloon juxtaposed with an infectious beat and lyrics that pay homage to the 2004 hip-hop anthem "Topsy" by J-Kwon; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Shaboozey performed at the Country Music Association Festival, at the halftime show during the Thanksgiving Day National Football League game between the Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears, and on Saturday Night Live; his song "Last of my Kind" was also featured on ESPN's college football season coverage; and

WHEREAS, at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards in 2025, Shaboozey was nominated for Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Best Country Song, Best Country Solo Performance, and Best Melodic Rap Performance, representing his contributions to different musical genres and impact on modern music; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Shaboozey for his achievements as a recording artist; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Shaboozey as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his unique contributions to the American musical landscape.

INTRODUCED

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