



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 32877, **Version:** 1

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### **Fiscal Note**

No expenditure is required.

### **Title**

Honoring Richard Davis for his years of contributions to the cultural, artistic and civic life of Madison.

### **Body**

WHEREAS Richard Davis has been a resident of Madison since 1977 and has invigorated the cultural life of the city; and

WHEREAS Richard is universally recognized as one of the most important bassists of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, having been named as Best Bass Player in both the Critics' and Readers' Polls of *Downbeat* magazine for eight consecutive years; and

WHEREAS after establishing himself at the top of the music worlds of his native Chicago and New York City, he moved to Madison where he has taught classes on Jazz, African-American Music, and Improvisation at the University of Wisconsin since 1977; and

WHEREAS Richard was a valued collaborator with jazz greats including Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Eric Dolphy, Dizzy Gillespie, Jaki Byard, Oliver Nelson, Elvin Jones, Milt Jackson, Sarah Vaughan, and Ben Webster and was a key member of the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Richard's mastery of classical music traditions is demonstrated by his performances with Leopold Stokowski, Igor Stravinsky, Pierre Boulez, Gunther Schuller, and Leonard Bernstein; and

WHEREAS Richard's versatility is demonstrated by his contributions to Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*, Bruce Springsteen's *Born to Run*, Laura Nyro's *Smile*, and Paul Simon's *There Goes Rhyming Simon*; and

WHEREAS Richard was honored in 2014 as a "Jazz Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS Richard established the Richard Davis Foundation for Young Bassists and has mentored bassists who have played with Jazz, Rock, Soul, Experimental and Salsa bands that have enlivened the dance floors of Madison; and

WHEREAS Richard's Black Music Ensemble has been a source of enjoyment, inspiration and enlightenment to the Madison community; and

WHEREAS Richard is a tireless worker in the cause of cross-cultural awareness, helping connect students with the broader life of the community through his organization, The Institute for Healing of Racism.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Madison and the Madison Common Council express their appreciation for Richard Davis and express their gratitude for his contributions to the life of the city.