

**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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Introduced by: Turner, Crawford, Bosma

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING the ABA 2000 on its inaugural season.

Whereas, The ABA 2000 is the revival of the former American Basketball Association, existing from 1967 to 1976, merging with the National Basketball Association in 1976;

Whereas, The ABA was widely recognized as the "outlaw" league, with its signature red, white and blue basketball, lively style of play, and three-point shot, which originated in the ABA;

Whereas, Former players for the ABA included electric stars like Julius ("Dr. J") Erving, Connie Hawkins, George ("Ice") Gervin, David Thompson, George McGinnis, Artis Gilmore, Moses Malone, Roger Brown and Dan ("The Horse") Issel;

Whereas, The founder of the original ABA and the Indiana Pacers, Dick Tinkham, is the co-founder of the ABA 2000, who, along with co-founder Joseph Newman, President/CEO of Alliance Broadcasting Group, has recognized the need for professional basketball to return to the purest basketball



tradition of fun, lively play and family entertainment;

Whereas, The co-founders of the ABA 2000 have instituted new rules for the league, including a "3-D" rule that allows for high-scoring, fast-paced game, and a new no foul out rule that allows players to continue in the game after five fouls;

Whereas, The purpose of the new rules is to restore to professional basketball the liveliness and excitement of basketball that was a tradition with the original ABA;

Whereas, The ABA 2000 Commissioner, Gary Elboggen has announced that the first league championship tournament will be played April 10 - 14, with the format of a single elimination tournament similar to NCAA basketball tournaments and NFL championships;

Whereas, The eight teams of the ABA 2000 will be included in the tournament, those teams being located in Indiana, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, San Diego, and Tampa Bay;

Whereas, Many of the coaches in the League are famous basketball legends, including George Gervin in Detroit, Joey Meyer in Chicago, Paul Westhead in Los Angeles, Lasalle Thompson in San Diego, and Billy Keller in Indiana;

Whereas, The Mission Statement of the ABA 2000 is to establish high-quality, professional teams that will provide value-priced family entertainment through a commitment to service and exciting professional basketball;

Whereas, The goals of the ABA 2000 are to establish eight teams in major markets to begin play by December 2000 (which has been accomplished), to expand the league until the league has thirty quality teams, to select owner groups that will work hard to accomplish ABA 2000 goals, to be a model of diversity by striving to secure minority ownership for at least half of its member teams, to stress positive corporate and individual citizenship on and off the court, to embrace opportunities to be constructive role models for young and old alike, to proactively



support local organizations and causes that strive to improve the quality of life in the community, and to work closely with the five ABA 2000 designated Community Outreach Organizations;

Whereas, The ABA 2000 is the first sports league, from its inception, to make the internet a fundamental component of its marketing plan;

Whereas, The ABA 2000 is striving for the best, making quality a hallmark of everything they do;

Whereas, The ABA 2000 is setting a good example for the rest of the nation in its fair-dealing, quest for excellence, and commitment to community service;

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the ABA 2000 is honored on the occasion of its inaugural season.

SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly congratulates the founders, teams, coaches and players for their creative talents, and pursuit of excellence.

SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to each person named herein.

