

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION 2

P5

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By: **The Speaker**

Introduced and read first time: March 19, 2019

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION

1 A House Simple Resolution concerning

2 **In Re: Delegate Jay Jalisi**
3 **Resolution of Reprimand**

4 FOR the purpose of adopting the findings and conclusions contained in the Report of the
5 Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics issued on March 25, 2019; and ordering the
6 reprimand of Delegate Jay Jalisi by the House of Delegates of Maryland pursuant to
7 Article III, Section 19 of the Maryland Constitution.

8 WHEREAS, On February 5, 2019, the Speaker of the House, as authorized by §
9 2–708 of the State Government Article requested that the Joint Committee on Legislative
10 Ethics conduct a review of all incidents relating to Delegate Jay Jalisi’s conduct as a
11 member of the Maryland General Assembly relating to an ongoing pattern of bullying and
12 abusive workplace behavior on the part of Delegate Jalisi; and

13 WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics, as required by § 2–706 of
14 the State Government Article and, in accordance with §§ 5–518 through 5–521 of the
15 General Provisions Article, conducted a thorough review of the allegation of violations of
16 the standards of civility and decorum expected from members of the House of Delegates
17 and the General Assembly by Delegate Jalisi relating to his treatment of staff and nonstaff,
18 including conducting 38 interviews, gathering 18 sworn affidavits, and hearing sworn
19 testimony from 17 witnesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Under § 5–521 of the General Provisions Article, the Joint Committee
21 on Legislative Ethics, after making findings in accordance with § 5–521, has the authority
22 to “issue any recommendations to the presiding officer of the house of the accused legislator
23 or to the full house of the accused legislator, including any recommendations for
24 appropriate sanctions”; and

25 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 19 of the Maryland Constitution provides, in relevant
26 part, that “Each House shall be judge of the qualifications and elections of its members, as
27 prescribed by the Constitution and Laws of the State, and shall appoint its own officers,
28 determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish a member for disorderly or disrespectful
29 behavior ...”; and



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1 WHEREAS, Sections 561 and 805 of Mason’s Manual state that, “A state legislative
2 body possesses inherent powers of self–protection”; and

3 WHEREAS, Section 561 of Mason’s Manual states that, “A legislative body has the
4 right to regulate the conduct of its members and may discipline a member as it deems
5 appropriate, including reprimand, censure or expulsion”; and

6 WHEREAS, Delegate Jalisi has engaged in an ongoing pattern of unrepentant
7 workplace bullying and has been verbally and emotionally abusive to individuals who
8 worked for him, other member’s legislative aides, other Maryland General Assembly
9 employees, and other individuals whom Delegate Jalisi has interacted with in his role as a
10 member of the Maryland General Assembly; and

11 WHEREAS, Delegate Jalisi’s conduct is part of a pattern of verbal and emotional
12 abuse and bullying behavior, which has continued despite repeated counseling by the
13 Speaker of the House, the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics, members of leadership of
14 the House of Delegates, his peers, and General Assembly staff; and

15 WHEREAS, Delegate Jalisi has failed to acknowledge or accept any responsibility
16 for his abusive, disrespectful, and bullying behavior and has repeatedly refused to take
17 corrective steps that have been offered to him to help him address and modify his
18 inappropriate behavior; and

19 WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics submitted detailed findings,
20 adopted by a unanimous vote of its members, in a Report dated March 25, 2019; and

21 WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics found that the improper
22 actions of Delegate Jalisi have brought disrepute and dishonor on himself, the House of
23 Delegates, and the General Assembly; and

24 WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics found that Delegate Jalisi
25 has conducted himself in an inappropriate, abusive, and disrespectful manner that is
26 incompatible with his role, duties, and responsibilities as a State official and Member of
27 this House; and

28 WHEREAS, The House of Delegates has a duty to ensure that each of its members
29 maintain public trust and, when one of its members breaks that trust, must take action to
30 restore that trust;

31 WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics recommended in its Report,
32 with all of its members concurring, that “the Speaker submit to the House of Delegates,
33 and that the full House of Delegates adopt, a resolution of reprimand that (1) expresses the
34 House of Delegates’ disapproval of Delegate Jalisi’s actions based on the conduct described
35 in this Report of the Ethics Committee, and (2) adopts this report”; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, That the House of Delegates of
2 Maryland adopt the findings and conclusions contained in the Report issued on March 25,
3 2019, by the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That Delegate Jay Jalisi be reprimanded by the House of Delegates of
5 Maryland, pursuant to Article III, Section 19 of the Maryland Constitution.