

1 SJR93
2 192710-4
3 By Senators Figures, Williams, Albritton, Allen, Beasley,
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison,
5 Dial, Dunn, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Sanders,
7 Sanford, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Ward and Whatley
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 08-MAR-18

1 SJR93

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4 ENROLLED, SJR93,

5 SUPPORTING THE FINDING OF THE CLOTILDA SHIP AND
6 PRESERVING AFRICATOWN.

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8 WHEREAS, shipwreck remains discovered in Baldwin
9 County in January 2018 were initially believed to be the
10 Clotilda, the last known ship to bring enslaved Africans to
11 the United States; on Sunday, July 8, 1860, the Clotilda
12 sailed into Mobile Bay with 110 African men, women, and
13 children on board; this landing occurred 52 years after the
14 United States abolished the international slave trade; and

15 WHEREAS, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) is
16 working with the National Park Service (NPS), SEARCH, Inc.,
17 and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American
18 History and Culture (NMAAHC) concerning the archaeological
19 investigation; in collaboration with the Slave Wrecks Project
20 (SWP), these entities determined that the discovered vessel
21 is, in fact, not the Clotilda; this discovery and examination
22 have powerfully reconnected the story of Clotilda to a
23 national and international audience; this attention will be
24 the start of a renewed effort to find the Clotilda; and

1 WHEREAS, the young Africans of the Clotilda
2 established the Africatown settlement in 1866 as the first
3 town founded, continuously occupied, and controlled by blacks
4 in the United States; by the 1890s, Africatown consisted of
5 about 30 homes; and

6 WHEREAS, the residents of Africatown owned land,
7 became United States citizens in 1868, continued to practice
8 their traditional religions, and built churches and graveyards
9 as the settlement expanded; the citizens of the tight-knit
10 community continued to dream of returning to Africa; and

11 WHEREAS, by the 1880s Africatown was home to a
12 second generation that had never been to Africa but knew the
13 stories of their ancestors about the land of abundance and
14 beauty; even after the last survivors of the Clotilda died,
15 the descendants, numbering in the thousands, continued to
16 carry the legacy of pride, distinctiveness, and attachment to
17 Africa; and

18 WHEREAS, the men and women of the Clotilda who lived
19 and died in Africatown on their own terms, have a distinctive
20 place in United States history; those still living in
21 Africatown share with their descendants a sense of belonging
22 to a small town with no equivalent in this country; and

23 WHEREAS, the discovery of the wreckage and the
24 ongoing search for the Clotilda bring the significance of this
25 historical chapter in Alabama history to the forefront; it is

1 highly appropriate to commend, support, and encourage the
2 important efforts of AHC, NPS, NMAAHC, SWP, and SEARCH, Inc.,
3 in this archaeological investigation and collaboration to
4 preserve and promote this extraordinary historic treasure; now
5 therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we commend and support the
8 research efforts coordinated by the Alabama Historical
9 Commission, in collaboration with the National Park Service,
10 SEARCH, Inc., the Smithsonian National Museum of African
11 American History and Culture, and the Slave Wrecks Project,
12 relating to the Clotilda and the preservation of the heritage
13 of Africatown.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by copy of this
15 resolution, those involved in this historically and
16 economically significant undertaking are highly commended for
17 their dedicated efforts and encouraged to continue.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR93
Senate 08-MAR-18
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 08-MAR-18

By: Senator Figures