

1 HR158  
2 117216-1  
3 By Representatives Canfield, Allen, Baker (A), Baker (L),  
4 Ball, Bandy, Barton, Beasley, Beck, Beech, Bentley, Black,  
5 Boothe, Boyd, Bridges, Buskey, Clouse, Coleman, Collier,  
6 Curtis, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, Dukes, England, Faust, Fields,  
7 Fincher, Ford, Galliher, Gaston, Gipson, Gordon, Graham,  
8 Grantland, Greeson, Grimes, Guin, Hall, Hammett, Hammon,  
9 Harper, Hill, Hilliard, Hinshaw, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard,  
10 Hurst, Irons, Ison, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Knight, Laird,  
11 Letson, Lewis, Lindsey, Love, Martin, Mask, McAdory,  
12 McCampbell, McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon,  
13 McDaniel, McLaughlin, McMillan, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (M),  
14 Moore (P), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Oden, Page, Payne,  
15 Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Salaam, Sanderford, Scott,  
16 Sherer, Shiver, Spicer, Taylor, Thigpen, Thomas (E), Thomas  
17 (J), Todd, Treadaway, Vance, Ward, Warren, White, Williams  
18 (J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren  
19 RFD:  
20 First Read: 26-JAN-10

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8 RECOGNIZING AND PROCLAIMING "ALABAMA READS" AN  
9 INITIATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS IN  
10 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES.  
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12 WHEREAS, The Big Read: Alabama Reads is an  
13 initiative of The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in  
14 partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services  
15 designed to revitalize the role of literature in American  
16 culture and bring the transformative power of literature into  
17 the lives of its citizens; and

18 WHEREAS, a 2004 report by the NEA, entitled Reading  
19 at Risk, found that not only is literacy in America rapidly  
20 declining among all groups, but that the rate of decline has  
21 accelerated, especially among the youth; and

22 WHEREAS, Alabama Reads aims to increase literacy by  
23 promoting reading for pleasure among all ages by encouraging  
24 readers to revisit the "classics"; the first "Big Read"  
25 selected is The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain; and

26 WHEREAS, the Alabama Public Libraries are working to  
27 build partnerships with local officials, businesses,

1 organizations, and schools to offer educational and fun  
2 activities that will focus around the selected "Big Read"  
3 title; and

4 WHEREAS, The Big Read: Alabama Reads is also made  
5 possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts,  
6 the National Endowment for the Arts, and local grant funding  
7 across the state; and

8 WHEREAS, all citizens of Alabama are encouraged to  
9 visit their local public library during the months of February  
10 through April 2010, to check out books, audio-books, and DVDs  
11 of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, the first "Big Read," and by  
12 participating, readers will receive discussion guides to  
13 promote reading groups throughout their communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama  
15 Legislature are invited to participate in the February 2,  
16 2010, kick-off event for The Big Read: Alabama Reads on the  
17 steps of the State House at 11:00 A.M; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
19 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That with great pleasure, "The Big  
20 Read" is hereby recognized and the months of February through  
21 April 2010 are hereby proclaimed "The Big Read" initiative.