

1 HR246
2 117776-1
3 By Representatives Lindsey and DeMarco
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-FEB-10

8 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL
9 COMMISSION
10

11 WHEREAS, in 1925, at the initial meeting of the
12 Appalachian Trail Conference, Benton MacKaye proposed, and the
13 Appalachian Trail Conference adopted an overall plan calling
14 for a main Appalachian Trail running from New Hampshire to
15 north Georgia and for "extension" trails into Maine and
16 Alabama; and

17 WHEREAS, the trail extension into Maine was
18 constructed in the late 1930's and was soon incorporated as a
19 part of the "main" Appalachian Trail; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1985, efforts began to link the Pinhoti
21 Trail to the Appalachian Trail in north Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2008, that link was achieved by means of
23 a 325-mile Pinhoti Trail, consisting of 171 miles of trail in
24 Alabama and 154 miles of trail in Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, Weogufka State Forest in Coosa County
26 includes Flag Mountain, the southernmost mountain in the

1 Appalachian Mountains that rises over 1,000 feet above sea
2 level; and

3 WHEREAS, Weogufka State Forest would thereby make a
4 fitting southern terminus for a hiking trail stretching from
5 Coosa County to Mount Katahdin in Maine; and

6 WHEREAS, making Weogufka State Forest the southern
7 terminus of the Appalachian Trail would make Alabama part of
8 the premier long-distance hiking trail in the world and help
9 publicize the beauty of the southernmost portion of the
10 Appalachian Mountains; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
12 there is hereby created the Alabama Appalachian Mountain Trail
13 Commission. The Commission shall be composed of 6 members, two
14 legislative members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives, one representative from the Alabama
16 Historical Commission, one representative from the Alabama
17 Forestry Commission, and one representative from the Alabama
18 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In addition,
19 the Committee shall appoint one member-at-large.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall be
21 responsible for the following:

22 Studying the utilization of the Pinhoti Trail in the
23 Talladega National Forest, Cheaha State Park, and Alabama
24 Forever Wild lands on Indian Mountain to link Flagg Mountain
25 in Weogufka State Forest to the Appalachian Trail with a goal
26 of establishing the southern terminus of the Pinhoti Trail at
27 Weogufka State Forest, and ultimately extending the

1 Appalachian Trail into Alabama along the route of the Pinhoti
2 Trail and establishing the southern terminus of the
3 Appalachian Trail at Weogufka State Forest; as the
4 southernmost portion of the Pinhoti Trail currently follows
5 county roads linking Flagg Mountain and Weogufka State Forest
6 to the Talladega National Forest, studying the feasibility of
7 moving the Trail from country roads to a wooded foot trail
8 where feasible;

9 Promoting and publicizing the link between Alabama
10 and the Appalachian Trail by appropriate publicity,
11 appropriate signage where the Pinhoti Trail crosses State and
12 Federal highways and marking the Pinhoti Trail on highway maps
13 published by the State of Alabama;

14 Promoting the maintenance and upkeep of the existing
15 trail in the Talladega National Forest, in Cheaha State Park,
16 and on a trail easement on Davis Mountain and Forever Wild
17 land on Indian Mountain; and

18 Promoting the acquisition of land and trail
19 easements for trail route and corridors from willing land
20 owners between Weogufka State Forest and the Talladega
21 National Forest.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall
23 meet at least once a year at a place decided upon by the
24 Commission members. The first meeting of the commission shall
25 be called by the legislative members within four months of the
26 adoption of this resolution. At the first meeting, a chair and
27 co-chair shall be elected from the legislative membership of

1 the commission. A majority of the Commission members shall
2 constitute a quorum. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk
3 of the House of Representatives, shall provide any assistance
4 as may be necessary at the committee's request. Each
5 legislative member of the committee shall be entitled to his
6 or her regular legislative compensation, his or her per diem,
7 and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting
8 of the committee or a subcommittee which shall be paid out of
9 any funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature upon
10 warrants drawn by the state Comptroller, upon requisitions
11 signed by the committee's chair; provided however, that
12 legislative members shall not receive additional legislative
13 compensation or per diem when the Legislature is in session or
14 if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates
15 for attendance on other state business. The other members of
16 the Commission shall be eligible for the regular state
17 employee reimbursement for travel and meeting expenses.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall
19 submit an annual report of its activities to the Legislature
20 by the fifth legislative day of each regular session and shall
21 terminate its activities in the 10th year following its
22 creation.