

1 HR246
2 117950-4
3 By Representatives Lindsey and DeMarco
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-FEB-10

ENGROSSED

ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL
COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Weogufka State Forest in Coosa County includes Flagg Mountain, the southernmost mountain in the Appalachian Mountains that rises over 1,000 feet above sea level; and

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

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

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
10 there is hereby created the Alabama Appalachian Mountain Trail
11 Commission. The Commission shall be composed of six members,
12 two legislative members shall be appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives, one representative from the
14 Alabama Historical Commission, one representative from the
15 Alabama Forestry Commission, and one representative from the
16 Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In
17 addition, the Commission shall appoint one member-at-large.
18 The membership of the committee shall be inclusive and reflect
19 the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic
20 diversity of the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission shall
25 meet at least once a year at a place decided upon by the
26 Commission members. The first meeting of the Commission shall

1 be called by the legislative members within four months of the
2 adoption of this resolution. At the first meeting, a chair and
3 co-chair shall be elected from the legislative membership of
4 the Commission. A majority of the Commission members shall
5 constitute a quorum. The Clerk of the House of Representatives
6 shall provide any assistance as may be necessary at the
7 Commission's request. The Commission shall report its
8 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature
9 not later than the fifth legislative day of the 2011 Regular
10 Session, whereupon the Commission shall stand dissolved and
11 discharged of any further duties and liabilities. Each
12 legislative member of the Commission shall be entitled to his
13 or her regular legislative compensation, his or her per diem,
14 and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting
15 of the Commission or a subcommittee which shall be paid out of
16 any funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature upon
17 warrants drawn by the state Comptroller, upon requisitions
18 signed by the Commission's chair; provided however, that
19 legislative members shall not receive additional legislative
20 compensation or per diem when the Legislature is in session or
21 if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates
22 for attendance on other state business. The other members of
23 the Commission shall be eligible for the regular state
24 employee reimbursement for travel and meeting expenses. The
25 total expenditures of the Commission shall not exceed \$5,000.

House of Representatives

Introduced and referred to the
House of Representatives committee
on Rules 04-FEB-10

Reported from Rules with 1 substitute and 09-FEB-10

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11 Read for the third time and adopted
12 as amended

Adopted by Voice Vote