

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

1  
2 ENGROSSED  
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4 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL  
5 COMMISSION  
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7 WHEREAS, in 1925, at the initial meeting of the  
8 Appalachian Trail Conference, Benton MacKaye proposed, and the  
9 Appalachian Trail Conference adopted an overall plan calling  
10 for a main Appalachian Trail running from New Hampshire to  
11 north Georgia and for "extension" trails into Maine and  
12 Alabama; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Weogufka State Forest in Coosa County  
22 includes Flagg Mountain, the southernmost mountain in the  
23 Appalachian Mountains that rises over 1,000 feet above sea  
24 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.

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House of Representatives

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| Introduced and referred to the<br>House of Representatives committee<br>on Rules ..... | 04-FEB-10 |
| Reported from Rules with 1 substi-<br>tute and .....                                   | 09-FEB-10 |
| Read for the third time and adopted<br>as amended .....                                | 09-FEB-10 |

Adopted by Voice Vote

Greg Pappas  
Clerk