

1 HJR576

2 119874-1

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

19 RFD:

20 First Read: 11-MAR-10

8 RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING PERCY SLEDGE.
9

10 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to honor and commend
11 the music icon Percy Sledge, an Alabama native whose melodious
12 voice and heartrending delivery have earned him enduring,
13 worldwide acclaim as the Golden Voice of Soul; and

14 WHEREAS, Percy Sledge is best-known for his 1966
15 classic ballad, "When a Man Loves a Woman," which was the
16 first Southern soul recording to reach the top of both the R&B
17 and pop charts in the United States and went on to become an
18 international hit; in 1988, the song was named one of the best
19 100 singles of the past 25 years by Rolling Stone Magazine;
20 during the early years of his career, he also recorded several
21 additional Top Ten R&B hits including "Warm and Tender Love,"
22 "It Tears Me Up," and "Take Time to Know Her"; and he returned
23 to the top of the charts in 1974 with "I'll Be Your
24 Everything"; he continued to draw enthusiastic audiences while
25 touring constantly into the 1990s and was critically acclaimed
26 in 1994 for "Blue Night," a collection of new material; and

1 WHEREAS, born November 25, 1940, in the isolated
2 farming community of Leighton, Alabama, Percy Sledge worked on
3 the family farm and as a hospital orderly before breaking into
4 the music business, joining the Esquires Combo that was based
5 in Muscle Shoals; his career skyrocketed when he signed a
6 recording contract after being introduced to Quin Ivy, a
7 well-known producer and owner of a record company in
8 Sheffield, Alabama; and

9 WHEREAS, Percy Sledge has toured the world, appeared
10 on television, and entertained multiple thousands of fans in
11 public venues, in addition to his soulful recordings that have
12 provided the intimate atmosphere for many romantic encounters;
13 he has received numerous awards and recognitions, including
14 becoming the first recipient of the R&B Foundation's Career
15 Achievement Award in 1989; he also won the W. C. Handy Blues
16 Awards in 1996 for Best Soul/Blues album of the year and in
17 2005 was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; he has
18 been honored with a Gold Star at the Alabama Music Hall of
19 Fame and was the 1993 recipient of the Lifework Award for
20 Performing Achievement; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
22 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it is a great pleasure to
23 recognize and commend Alabama's own Percy Sledge, who continues
24 to be an outstanding musical ambassador to the world for his
25 beloved home state, and this resolution is offered in highest
26 tribute and deepest appreciation to him, along with best
27 wishes for success in all future endeavors.

