

1 HJR212  
2 159061-1  
3 By Representatives Johnson (R) and Hurst  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 25-FEB-14

8 URGING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE A FALL TURKEY  
10 SEASON IN FUTURE HUNTING SEASONS.

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of  
13 Conservation and Natural Resources promulgates the hunting  
14 seasons in this state; and

15 WHEREAS, The commissioner eliminated the fall turkey  
16 season in all but six counties in this state, and in those  
17 counties the fall turkey season was shortened by fifty  
18 percent; and

19 WHEREAS, turkey hunters in this state first heard  
20 that this drastic action was being considered after the  
21 Conservation Advisory Board in 2013 suggested this change with  
22 no advance notice that this action was being considered and  
23 with no opportunity to address the issue; and

24 WHEREAS, historically, the first turkey season in  
25 this state was in the fall only and for at least 50 years, the  
26 fall turkey season had been 40 days in counties with high  
27 turkey populations; and

1                   WHEREAS, there is clearly no biological reason to  
2 eliminate the fall turkey season, and recent data showed  
3 Alabama having over 500,000 turkeys and the highest density of  
4 turkeys of any state in the United States; and

5                   WHEREAS, over 40 other states have a fall turkey  
6 season; and

7                   WHEREAS, the commissioner in virtually eliminating  
8 fall turkey season in the 2013-2014 hunting season was not  
9 required to consider the impact of turkey hunters in this  
10 state or to give any justification for his decision or to be  
11 subject to legislative approval in the same manner as provided  
12 for other rules adopted by the commissioner; and

13                  WHEREAS, fall turkey season contributes to the  
14 economy of this state particularly in rural counties where the  
15 fall turkey season is part of their economic development as  
16 well as a time-honored tradition; now therefore,

17                  BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Commissioner of  
19 Conservation and Natural Resources is strongly urged to  
20 restore the historical fall turkey season in all counties of  
21 this state.

22                  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
23 resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of Conservation  
24 and Natural Resources and to the chair of the Conservation  
25 Advisory Board.