

1 HJR225  
2 159054-2  
3 By Representatives Baughn, Johnson (K), Roberts, Greer,  
4 Merrill, Poole, Black, Harper, England, Morrow and Burdine  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 25-FEB-14

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING HISTORIC BYLER ROAD.

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5 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature recognizes the  
6 historical and scenic byway significance and importance of the  
7 entire Byler Road that is located in Lauderdale, Colbert,  
8 Lawrence, Franklin, Winston, Walker, Fayette, and Tuscaloosa  
9 Counties; and

10 WHEREAS, Byler Road is significant in Alabama's  
11 history as the first public road enacted by the Alabama  
12 Legislature and approved by Governor William W. Bibb on  
13 December 16, 1819, two days after Alabama became a state; and

14 WHEREAS, Byler Road is a myriad of layers of Alabama  
15 history and is an important part of the initial fabric of the  
16 State of Alabama that merits historical and scenic byway  
17 recognition; and

18 WHEREAS, according to early historians, Byler Road  
19 originated as a buffalo and animal trail, then an Indian  
20 Trail, to a public road vital for commerce, travel, and  
21 communications; and

22 WHEREAS, the Indian Trail that preceded the Byler  
23 Road was essential to the way of life of prehistoric Indian  
24 people from Paleo-Indian through the Mississippian periods of

1 the prehistoric archaeological record, and of historic  
2 Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw Indian people; and

3 WHEREAS, Byler Road was a thoroughfare for the  
4 influx of early settlers, most of Scots-Irish descent with  
5 bold resolve, who were among the first Caucasian inhabitants  
6 of Northwest Alabama; and

7 WHEREAS, Byler Road was used by Union and  
8 Confederate soldiers during the Civil War; and

9 WHEREAS, Byler Road is the middle link that  
10 connected Mobile Trace to Jackson's Military Road and created  
11 an important transportation artery between Mobile, Alabama,  
12 and Nashville, Tennessee; and

13 WHEREAS, Byler Road is associated with prominent  
14 Alabama historical figures who lived along or adjacent to the  
15 Byler Road route including Indian Chieftains Tuskaloosa,  
16 Doublehead, and George Colbert, as well as Jesse Owens,  
17 General Joseph Wheeler, first Confederate States of America  
18 Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker, Helen Keller, John Byler,  
19 Jacob Pruitt, and others; and

20 WHEREAS, Byler Road is a pleasurable scenic driving  
21 experience, a visual environment combining natural and  
22 man-made features including landform, bodies of water,  
23 vegetation, wildlife, geological formation, artifacts, and  
24 historical sites; there are also active and passive

1       recreational experiences and county-unique events, fairs, and  
2       folklore; and

3               WHEREAS, among the distinctive scenic locations  
4       along Byler Road are Shoals Creek, where Byler Road and  
5       Jackson's Military Road connect; Wilson Lake at the Town of  
6       Bainbridge; Bainbridge Loop; Byler Gap at Mount Hope, where  
7       the road elevates 500 feet from the Tennessee Valley Floor to  
8       the Cumberland Plateau; Kinlock Falls in the William B.  
9       Bankhead National Forest; and Rocky Ravine Park in Haleyville,  
10      Alabama; now therefore,

11               BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
12      HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Section 1 of the Alabama law  
13      establishing Byler Road as a public road, dated December 16,  
14      1819, best defines the portion of the Byler Road recognized  
15      herein for its historical significance, scenic beauty, and  
16      continuing importance to the people of this great state.

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
9 and was adopted by the House 26-FEB-14.

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Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

05-MAR-14

Adopted