

1 HJR129  
2 167111-1  
3 By Representatives Jackson, Alexander, Bandy, Boyd, Bracy,  
4 Buskey, Clarke, Coleman-Evans, Daniels, Drummond, England,  
5 Forte, Givan, Grimsley, Hall, Holmes (A), Howard, Knight,  
6 Lawrence, McCampbell, McClammy, Melton, Moore (M), Robinson,  
7 Rogers, Scott and Warren  
8 RFD: Rules  
9 First Read: 16-APR-15

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8 RECOGNIZING THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE AS THE ALABAMA  
9 INSPIRATIONAL SONG OF 2015.

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11 WHEREAS, the rich history of the simple sing-along  
12 song, "This Little Light of Mine", makes it a perfect song to  
13 recognize as the Alabama Inspirational Song of 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, written as a children's song in 1920 by  
15 composer and teacher Henry Dixon Loes, "This Little Light of  
16 Mine" was officially recognized in 1939 as a traditional folk  
17 song by John Lomax, a musicologist and folklorist who  
18 collected more than ten thousand works for the Archive of  
19 American Folk Song at the Library of Congress; and

20 WHEREAS, it is believed that Matthew 5:16 is the  
21 inspiration for Loes' original work; easy, repetitive lyrics  
22 have contributed to the song's popularity and effectiveness as  
23 a sing-along; over the years, hand motions were added for  
24 children, various verses were added for various reasons and  
25 occasions, the song has been secularized for various purposes,  
26 applied to many struggles, and recorded by multiple artists

1 across musical style lines including: gospel, folk,  
2 children's, African-American spiritual, popular, contemporary  
3 Christian, and a multitude of other styles; and

4 WHEREAS, in the 1950's and 1960's "This Little Light  
5 of Mine" became a Civil Rights anthem with other traditional  
6 songs and on September 17, 2001, Odetta and the Boys' Choir of  
7 Harlem performed the song on the Late Show with David  
8 Letterman on the first show after resuming broadcasting  
9 following the events of 9/11, inspiring many; and

10 WHEREAS, "This Little Light of Mine" has influenced  
11 and inspired the lives of many and continues to enrich and  
12 empower those who hear and sing along with the simple but  
13 powerful words; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the simple yet powerful song  
16 "This Little Light of Mine" by Harry Dixon Loes, is recognized  
17 as the Alabama Inspirational Song of 2015.