

1 HJR135  
2 167938-1  
3 By Representatives Gaston, Buskey, Bracy, Williams (JW),  
4 Davis, McMillan, Drummond, Clarke, Wilcox, Baker, Shiver,  
5 Faust and Sessions  
6 RFD: Rules  
7 First Read: 21-APR-15

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8 RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA ON ITS  
9 REDESIGNATION AS A FOUR-YEAR NATIONAL CENTER OF ACADEMIC  
10 EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION ASSURANCE EDUCATION AND CYBER  
11 DEFENSE.

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13 WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has been  
14 redesignated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in  
15 Information Assurance Education and Cyber Defense, and the  
16 attainment of this prestigious status reflects the high  
17 quality of its educational offerings in that field; and

18 WHEREAS, the National Center of Academic Excellence  
19 program was established by the National Security Agency and  
20 the Department of Homeland Security, with the support of the  
21 National Science Foundation and it is intended to promote  
22 higher education and research related to safeguarding the  
23 nation's information infrastructure; and

24 WHEREAS, to be selected as a Center of Academic  
25 Excellence, a college or university must establish a strong  
26 information assurance program and design its security courses  
27 in accordance with training standards developed by the

1                   National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland  
2                   Security; and

3                   WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has placed  
4                   a special emphasis on information assurance and has created a  
5                   Center for Forensics, Information Technology and Security in  
6                   2009 which was established as an organization to promote the  
7                   advancement of knowledge related to the study and application  
8                   of digital forensics, information technology security, and  
9                   information assurance; and

10                  WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has offered  
11                  a specialization in networking security since the fall of 1998  
12                  as part of its undergraduate degree program in information  
13                  technology; students who complete this specialization are  
14                  trained to assure the integrity and security of information  
15                  and organizations' infrastructure; and

16                  WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has offered  
17                  a specialization in digital forensics since the fall of 1998  
18                  as part of its undergraduate degree program in information  
19                  technology; students who complete this specialization are  
20                  trained in measures to prevent the loss, unauthorized  
21                  modification, and destruction of data, and receive diverse  
22                  training that draws on skills in computer science, information  
23                  technology, and criminology; and

24                  WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has offered  
25                  a graduate program specialization in information assurance  
26                  since fall of 2009 with advanced course work in digital  
27                  forensics analysis, operating systems security, and network

1 security management as well as graduate research in these  
2 areas; and

3                   WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama has offered  
4 a new cyber assurance undergraduate degree program since fall  
5 of 2014 with a systems-level approach to computer security,  
6 combining theoretical and applied security research; and

7                   WHEREAS, covering the 2014 through 2021 school  
8 years, the National Center of Academic Excellence designation  
9 provides recognition of the University of South Alabama's  
10 leadership in the study of cyber security, and the  
11 institution's efforts to prepare well-trained professionals to  
12 work in this crucial discipline is of great benefit to the  
13 State of Alabama, and the nation; now therefore,

14                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the  
16 University of South Alabama on its redesignation as a  
17 four-year National Center of Academic Excellence in  
18 Information Assurance Education and Cyber Defense, and extend  
19 to all those associated with the program sincere best wishes  
20 for continued success.

21                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of  
22 this resolution be prepared for the university as an  
23 expression of high regard by the Legislature.