

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.