

1 SR72

2 168629-1

3 By Senators Coleman, Dunn, Albritton, Stutts, Melson,
4 Smitherman, Singleton, Ross, Allen, Holtzclaw, Livingston,
5 Chambliss, Dial, Ward, Sanford, Beasley, Marsh, Holley,
6 Scofield, Hightower, Pittman, Orr, Whatley, Williams, Glover,
7 Shelnutt, Bussman, Sanders, Figures and Waggoner

8 RFD:

9 First Read: 14-MAY-15

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8 RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS
9 WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

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11 WHEREAS, commendations and recognition are extended
12 on the 25th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities
13 Act; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1986, the National Council on
15 Disability, a federal agency, proposed, what was to later
16 become the Americans with Disabilities Act, to the President
17 and Congress of the United States a landmark report entitled
18 Toward Independence: An Assessment of Federal Laws and
19 Programs Affecting Persons with Disabilities - With
20 Legislative Recommendations; and

21 WHEREAS, on July 12, 1990, the Americans with
22 Disabilities Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives on a
23 vote of 377-28; the next day, it passed the Senate on a vote
24 of 91-6; shortly thereafter, on July 26, 1990, the Act was
25 signed by President George H.W. Bush on the South Lawn of the
26 White House in front of over 3,000 disability advocates, the

1 largest bill-signing ceremony that had ever taken place at the
2 White House; and

3 WHEREAS, the importance of the act was recognized by
4 members of both political parties including President William
5 J. Clinton who stated, "Together we've begun to shift
6 disability in America away from exclusion, towards inclusion;
7 away from dependence, towards independence; away from
8 paternalism, towards empowerment...And we have made a
9 commitment - a real commitment - to enforce the Americans with
10 Disabilities Act, until all citizens with disabilities receive
11 equal treatment under the law, whether in the workplace, or
12 school, in government or in the courts" and President George
13 H.W. Bush who stated, "It's been the work of a true coalition.
14 A strong and inspiring coalition of people who have shared
15 both a dream and a passionate determination to make that dream
16 come true. It's been a coalition in the finest spirit. A
17 joining of Democrats and Republicans. Of the Legislative and
18 the Executive branches. Of public officials and private
19 citizens. Of people with disabilities and without."; and

20 WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act is a
21 wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits discrimination
22 based on disability; and

23 WHEREAS, the importance of the Americans with
24 Disabilities Act was stated by Shirley Davis, director of
25 global diversity, at the Society for Human Resource
26 Management, who said, "People with disabilities represent a

1 critical talent pool that is underserved and underutilized.";

2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act has
4 enriched the United States of America by including people with
5 disabilities in all areas of our society; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
7 ALABAMA, That we recognize the 25th Anniversary of the
8 Americans with Disabilities Act and the legacy of service
9 provided by the act to disabled Americans.