

1 HJR72  
2 198402-1  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 02-APR-19

8 WELCOMING THE REVEREND DR. DON DARIUS BUTLER AS THE  
9 NEW PASTOR OF FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN HUNTSVILLE,  
10 ALABAMA.

11  
12 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we  
13 welcome the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler as the new pastor  
14 of First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler assumes  
16 pastoral leadership of First Missionary Baptist Church,  
17 succeeding the Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, who has served  
18 the congregation since January 1977, for a total 42 years; and

19 WHEREAS, First Missionary Baptist Church is in its  
20 138th year of ministry, and it holds a long-standing history  
21 in the City of Huntsville; the church is active in the  
22 community, having partnerships with numerous local, state, and  
23 national organizations; it provides a vibrant atmosphere of  
24 worship and fellowship for many residents of the Greater  
25 Huntsville area and for several other neighboring communities  
26 as well; and

1                   WHEREAS, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, the Reverend  
2 Dr. Don Darius Butler earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in  
3 Bible and Theology from American Baptist College in Nashville,  
4 Tennessee; a Master of Divinity Degree and a certificate in  
5 Black Church Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School in  
6 Nashville, Tennessee; and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from  
7 Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina; and

8                   WHEREAS, before joining First Missionary Baptist  
9 Church, the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler was the senior  
10 pastor of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church in Milwaukee,  
11 Wisconsin; during his nine-year tenure, he was instrumental in  
12 the revitalization of the ministry; he facilitated several  
13 unprecedented ministry innovations and milestones, and he led  
14 a broad expansion of the church's local, national, and  
15 international outreach; and

16                   WHEREAS, he is married to La Keisha Wright Butler,  
17 who is an attorney, and is the father of Dahlia Marie; also,  
18 he is the chair of the American Baptist College Board of  
19 Trustees and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and

20                   WHEREAS, on February 3, 2019, First Missionary  
21 Baptist Church hosted a warm welcome reception for the  
22 Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler; and

23                   WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler is a  
24 gifted leader, a dynamic preacher, and an inspirational  
25 teacher with a deep love for Jesus Christ; now therefore,

26                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most heartily

1 commend the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler as the new pastor  
2 of First Missionary Baptist Church, and we extend our  
3 heartfelt gratitude to him for his unwavering service to the  
4 community.