

1 HJR127  
2 199210-1  
3 By Representatives McMillan, Shiver, Simpson, Drummond,  
4 Clarke, Stringer, Brown (C), Faust and Wilcox  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 18-APR-19

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8 PROCLAMING 2020 AS THE YEAR TO EMBRACE THE GULF AND  
9 RECOGNIZE THE GULF OF MEXICO'S IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION.  
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11 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize  
12 2020 as the Year to Embrace the Gulf and acknowledge the Gulf  
13 of Mexico's importance to the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico is an ocean basin  
15 bounded on the north, northeast, and northwest by the Gulf  
16 Coast of the United States, on the south and southwest by  
17 Mexico, and on the southeast by Cuba; and the Gulf of Mexico  
18 is bordered by five Gulf Coast states: Alabama, Florida,  
19 Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas; and the Gulf region  
20 contributes to the nation's economy, security, energy,  
21 environment, heritage, beauty, diversity, and resilience; and

22 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico's watershed covers more  
23 than half of the continental United States and the Mississippi  
24 River drains more than one-third of the nation, and it is  
25 characterized with diverse flora and fauna, provides food,  
26 shelter, and habitat to marine and estuarine organisms,  
27 shorebirds, waterfowl, and wildlife, and the Gulf Coast

1 supports our nation's seafood industry through commercial  
2 fishing but also provides recreational adventures such as  
3 sailing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, and fishing; and

4 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico is more than just a  
5 pretty picture; it provides thousands of miles of beautiful,  
6 affordable shoreline living, and the Gulf Coast region is also  
7 one of the most culturally diverse regions in the nation with  
8 millions of residents tracing their heritage to Europe,  
9 Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and the Gulf Coast embraces a  
10 variety of traditions and invokes a strong sense of place; and

11 WHEREAS, Gulf Coast tourism generates hundreds of  
12 billions of dollars each year, and if the Gulf area were a  
13 country, our economy would rank among the top 10 worldwide,  
14 and by increasing awareness of the Gulf of Mexico's many  
15 treasures and limitless value, we ensure a sustainable future;  
16 now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
18 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we do hereby acknowledge and  
19 observe 2020 as "The Year to Embrace the Gulf" and encourage  
20 the citizens of Alabama to commemorate its observance  
21 beginning January 1, 2020.