

1 HJR23
2 209510-1
3 By Representatives Fincher, Whorton, Hanes, Shiver, Daniels,
4 Kitchens, Drake, Scott, Sorrell, Crawford and Whitt
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 03-FEB-21

DESIGNATING AUGUST 31 OF EACH YEAR OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, drug addition is a chronic disease,
characterized by compulsive or difficult to control drug use
despite harmful consequences; and

WHEREAS, drug addiction is seen by both the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health
Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too
easily lead to overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, 67,367 individuals in the United States
died from drug overdoses in 2018; and

WHEREAS, for every drug overdose that results in
death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an
emotional and economic toll on the individual, their family,
and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, drug addition can fuel feelings of shame,
guilt, embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, causing
individuals to resist seeking treatment and support; and

1 WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event
2 held on August 31 of each year to raise awareness of drug
3 overdoses, to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and to
4 acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering
5 those who have died or have a permanent injury as a result of
6 a drug overdose; and

7 WHEREAS, to advance the purpose of Overdose
8 Awareness Day, all flags shall be flown at half-staff
9 throughout the state for the day's duration; and

10 WHEREAS, recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in
11 Alabama sends a strong message to former or current addictive
12 substance users, that they are valued and that overdose death
13 is preventable; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That August 31 of each year shall
16 be designated as Overdose Awareness Day in Alabama to raise
17 awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related
18 deaths.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body respectfully
20 requests that the Governor order flags flown at half-staff and
21 to issue a proclamation calling on public officials and the
22 residents of the state to observe Overdose Awareness Day with
23 appropriate activities and programs each year.