

1 SJR118
2 213767-1
3 By Senator Scofield
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 29-APR-21

8 RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
9 SYSTEM'S MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's
12 Master Gardener Program has provided volunteer service to the
13 Extension System and service projects in communities
14 throughout Alabama, creating beauty and enhancing health for
15 the past 40 years; and

16 WHEREAS, the program was launched in 1981 by former
17 Madison County Extension Agent, Gary Murray, after learning of
18 the program from an Alabama transplant, Mary Lou McNabb, who
19 participated in the Cornell University Master Gardener
20 Program; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Dave Williams, former Extension
22 Specialist and Auburn University Horticulture Professor,
23 served as the first State Program Coordinator; and

24 WHEREAS, Tony Glover, former Extension Home Grounds
25 Program Leader, created the first statewide Master Gardener
26 curriculum, conference, and Extension Agent training program;
27 and

1 WHEREAS, 45 Extension Agents serving 52 of Alabama's
2 counties helped establish the Master Gardener Program in their
3 regions; and

4 WHEREAS, Master Gardeners have provided service to
5 the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and to their local
6 communities, averaging 150,000 volunteer hours per year,
7 valued at over \$2.8 million per year; and

8 WHEREAS, Master Gardeners volunteer to operate the
9 Master Gardener Helpline, where they field calls from home
10 gardeners on landscape and garden issues; and

11 WHEREAS, through their volunteer service, Master
12 Gardeners have contributed to the development of greenspaces,
13 streetscapes, and other municipal beautification projects
14 throughout the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Master Gardeners have developed
16 demonstration gardens for community education programs and
17 food gardens that donate produce to foodbanks through the Grow
18 More, Give More Program; and

19 WHEREAS, the Harvest for Health Program,
20 multidisciplinary research between The University of Alabama
21 at Birmingham and Auburn University, has paired Master
22 Gardeners with cancer survivors to exemplify the health
23 benefits of gardening; and

24 WHEREAS, the Master Gardeners are a constant force
25 supporting a range of community programs and events, including
26 county fairs, through their service and philanthropy; now
27 therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Cooperative
3 Extension System's Master Gardener Program is commended for
4 its contributions to the State of Alabama, and by copy of this
5 resolution is recognized for its impact toward making our
6 state more beautiful and its citizens more capable of
7 environmentally safe and sound decisions for their home
8 landscapes.