

HJR6 ENROLLED



1 HJR6
2 NR6HG88-2
3 By Representative Warren
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26



HJR6 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 RECOGNIZING APRIL 5, 2026, AS BOOKER T. WASHINGTON DAY IN
4 THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alabama
7 takes great pride and pleasure in recognizing and declaring
8 April 5, 2026, as Booker T. Washington Day; Washington was a
9 prominent Black educator, author, and leader who made
10 significant contributions to the advancement of African
11 Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; in
12 Alabama, he is most known for serving as the first President
13 of Tuskegee Institute, which became Tuskegee University; and

14 WHEREAS, Booker Taliaferro Washington was born in
15 Hale's Ford, Virginia, on a small tobacco farm near
16 present-day Smith Mountain Lake; because Washington was
17 enslaved, and few birth records were kept for enslaved
18 workers, his birth date is said to be April 5, 1856;
19 Washington lived with his mother, Jane, who was the
20 plantation's cook, and his siblings, John and Amanda, in a
21 tiny, one-room log cabin that also served as the plantation
22 kitchen; and

23 WHEREAS, following the emancipation of Black people,
24 Washington gained a primary education by working in the
25 mornings and evenings and attending school during the day;
26 in 1872, at age 16, Washington entered Hampton Normal and
27 Agricultural Institute, now Hampton University, in Hampton,
28 Virginia; he excelled as a student and graduated in 1875,



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29 later being recruited as a teacher by Hampton Institute;
30 Washington became such an exemplary teacher and speaker that
31 he was invited to join the administration of the newly
32 established Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, which
33 is known today as Tuskegee University in Macon County,
34 Alabama; the school opened its doors on July 4, 1881, with a
35 curriculum that focused on academic and skills-based
36 education for men and women; as the Institute's first
37 President, Washington's aim was to teach trade skills to
38 African Americans so they could find employment that would
39 move them out of poverty; as part of their education,
40 students built the Tuskegee campus from the ground up by
41 making bricks, building classrooms, barns, and outbuildings,
42 growing crops, and raising livestock; and

43 WHEREAS, Washington became a leading voice for
44 industrial-vocational education and a measured approach
45 toward gaining civil rights for Black people; his leadership
46 at Tuskegee Institute had a lasting impact on African
47 American education, and the university continues to be a
48 leading institution of higher learning; and

49 WHEREAS, while controversial to some, one of
50 Washington's most significant accomplishments was his 1895
51 Atlanta Compromise speech, delivered at the Cotton States
52 and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia; in his
53 speech, Washington called for cooperation between Black and
54 white Americans, particularly in the South; he emphasized
55 the importance of African Americans focusing on economic
56 advancement and self-improvement; and



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57 WHEREAS, Washington opened an agricultural school as
58 an outreach of Tuskegee Institute, for which he hired George
59 Washington Carver to lead in 1896; his accomplishments were
60 not just limited to the educational domain, however;
61 Washington also founded the National Negro Business League
62 in 1900, which provided consultation services to Black
63 business owners; politically, he advised presidents William
64 McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Taft on race
65 relations in the United States and often on political
66 appointments; and

67 WHEREAS, through his writings, speeches, and
68 leadership, Washington advocated for economic progress,
69 self-reliance, and practical education as essential tools
70 for African American empowerment; his work had a lasting
71 impact on education, entrepreneurship, and the Civil Rights
72 movement in Alabama and all across the nation; now
73 therefore,

74 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
75 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we take great pleasure in
76 recognizing April 5, 2026, as Booker T. Washington Day in
77 the State of Alabama, in celebration of his profound
78 contributions to the advancement and education of African
79 Americans and to the betterment of American society.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 22-Jan-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

10-Feb-26

Adopted