

1 HJR102
2 157518-1
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 30-JAN-14

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8 CREATING THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD TASK FORCE.
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10 WHEREAS, in 1806 when the United States was still
11 young and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal
12 riders was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from
13 middle Georgia to costal Alabama. As the likelihood of another
14 battle with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly
15 move troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming
16 more evident. In June 1810, Colonel Richard Sparks, the
17 commanding officer of Fort Stoddert located in Mobile County,
18 Alabama, was ordered by U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis
19 to inspect and document these horse paths in order to mark a
20 military road so that troops and supplies could be sent to
21 defend the Gulf Coast. A second scouting party from Fort
22 Stoddert was led by 1st Lieutenant John Roger Nelson Lockett
23 who made the first significant survey for road construction in
24 land that would later become Alabama. On July 11, 1811,
25 Brigadier General Wade Hampton was directed to immediately
26 begin construction of three wagon roads through the Creek

1 Nation - the second of these roads became known as the Federal
2 Road; and

3 WHEREAS, with construction at last beginning in
4 1811, the "Old Federal Road" was built from west to east
5 connecting Fort Stoddert to Fort Wilkinson, located near
6 Milledgeville, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, The Old Federal Road successfully connected
8 Fort Stoddert to the Chattahoochee River. At that point, the
9 Federal Road merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path
10 that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana. This
11 path quickly became a major travel route for pioneers to the
12 area once known as the Old Southwest; and

13 WHEREAS, from its start as a narrow horse path used
14 to carry the mails, the Old Federal Road underwent great
15 development and became a major military road connecting early
16 American forts in the Creek Lands and the Mississippi
17 Territory. Acting as the interstate highway of its day, when
18 "Alabama Fever" raged through the Carolinas and Georgia, the
19 Old Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers to the Old
20 Southwest. As such, the Federal Road directly contributed to
21 the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and
22 1820 with Alabama's population growing faster than that of
23 either Mississippi or Louisiana during this time. Alabama
24 continued out-distancing both Mississippi and Louisiana in
25 population growth through 1850; and

26 WHEREAS, the Federal Road became a well-traveled
27 stagecoach route for those going through Alabama. Nearly two

1 centuries later, remnants of the Federal Road remain visible;
2 now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Old
5 Federal Road Task Force to be comprised of the following
6 members:

7 (1) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
8 Alabama Historical Commission.

9 (2) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
10 Alabama Department of Archives and History.

11 (3) The president, or his or her designee, of any
12 four-year public college or university that is located within
13 the geographic area of the Old Federal Road.

14 (4) One member of the Alabama Senate appointed by
15 the Lieutenant Governor.

16 (5) Three members of the Alabama House of
17 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

18 (6) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
19 Alabama Tourism Department.

20 (7) One member from each of the congressional
21 districts in which the Federal Road was located appointed by
22 the Speaker of the House.

23 (8) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
24 Alabama Department of Transportation.

25 In making the appointments, the appointing
26 authorities shall strive to ensure that the composition of the
27 task force shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender,

1 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.
2 The task force shall annually report to the Legislature by the
3 second legislative day of each regular session the extent to
4 which the task force has complied with the diversity
5 provisions provided for in this resolution.

6 The chair and vice chair of the task force shall be
7 elected at the first meeting of the task force, which shall be
8 called for by the Speaker of the House no later than September
9 1, 2014. The task force shall thereafter meet at the call of
10 the chair or on a motion of a majority of its members.

11 The task force shall study all aspects of how best
12 to identify and promote the Old Federal Road in this state.
13 The task force shall present annual findings, conclusions, and
14 recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on or
15 before the tenth day of each regular legislative session.

16 No funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature
17 may be expended for the work of the task force. Members shall
18 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed as other
19 state employees for per diem expenses as allowed by law, and
20 only to the extent that any funds are available for
21 reimbursement of per diem expenses of the members.

22 Notwithstanding the foregoing, no legislative member
23 may receive state per diem for a meeting of the task force
24 when the Legislature is in session or if a legislative member
25 is being paid any other payments on the same dates for
26 attendance of other state business.