

1 HJR26
2 173317-1
3 By Representatives Mooney, Wingo, Hanes, Holmes (M), Drake,
4 Carns, Whorton (I) and McCutcheon
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 09-FEB-16

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8 ENCOURAGING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT
9 COMMEMORATING THE BILL OF RIGHTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.
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11 WHEREAS, the lasting promises of our great nation,
12 those of freedom from oppression and the preservation of
13 individual liberty, are fundamental themes of the very
14 document upon which our system of government was founded; and

15 WHEREAS, the central importance of the principles
16 outlined in the United States Constitution once prompted
17 President Harry Truman to describe it as "a living force";
18 similarly, President Ronald Reagan evoked the power of the
19 individual liberties safeguarded by the constitution,
20 referring to "a government which empowers its people" as
21 "mankind's best defense against tyranny," and nowhere are
22 these constitutional guarantees regarding the rights of the
23 individual articulated more clearly than in the first 10
24 amendments - the aptly named Bill of Rights; and

25 WHEREAS, while the Capitol grounds and other
26 properties and sites throughout the state display statues,

1 memorials, and commemorations of people, ideals, and events
2 that demonstrate our country's abiding dedication to the
3 values established by the Bill of Rights, there is no specific
4 tribute to the Bill of Rights; and

5 WHEREAS, the general laws of the state authorize the
6 Alabama Historical Commission to provide for the placement and
7 acquisition of historical sites and monuments, and the
8 Department of Finance Division of Construction Management to
9 acquire property and structures in the name of the State of
10 Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, we find that a commemorative structure to
12 honor the Bill of Rights would be a worthy addition to the
13 recognition and memorialization of historic sites in this
14 state; and we support the inclusion of a monument that will
15 convey to visitors a sense of history and the faith in human
16 liberty symbolized by the Bill of Rights; now, therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby encourage the
19 Alabama Historical Commission and the Department of Finance
20 Division of Construction Management, subject to state law and
21 rules of the commission and the division, to approve and
22 permit the construction or acquisition of a monument on state
23 property to specifically commemorate the Bill of Rights of the
24 United States Constitution.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no public funds be used
26 for the design and construction of the monument.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That official copies of this
2 resolution be provided to the executive director of the
3 Alabama Historical Commission and the Director of Construction
4 of the Division of Construction Management.