

1 HJR385
2 185994-2
3 By Representatives Knight, Holmes (A), McClammy, Hollis,
4 Lawrence, England, Drummond, Howard, Buskey, Bracy, Daniels,
5 Moore (M), Rogers, Coleman, Givan and Hall
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 27-APR-17

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF VOTING AND
4 OFFICE HOLDING BY AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ALABAMA.

5
6 WHEREAS, in March 1867, the United States Congress
7 passed the First Reconstruction Act, which called for southern
8 states to draft new constitutions including equal suffrage
9 rights for freedmen; and

10 WHEREAS, black suffrage became a reality in Alabama
11 when the first African Americans to cast ballots in the state
12 did so on April 1, 1867, in a Tuscumbia mayoral election; and

13 WHEREAS, General John Pope, military governor of the
14 Third Military District, which included the State of Alabama,
15 issued orders dividing the state into forty-four voting
16 districts; and

17 WHEREAS, two white males and one African American
18 male were appointed as registrars to oversee voter
19 registration in each district; and

20 WHEREAS, these black registrars were the first
21 African American officeholders in the State of Alabama; and

22 WHEREAS, between July 1 and August 20, 1867, 88,243
23 African American men registered to vote throughout Alabama;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, the 1867 voter registration books, held at
2 the Alabama Department of Archives and History, are the first
3 public records that document the first and last names of
4 African American males living in Alabama; and

5 WHEREAS, held October 1-3, 1867, the successful
6 referendum on calling a constitutional convention marked the
7 first time that African American men throughout Alabama cast
8 ballots; and

9 WHEREAS, eighteen of the one hundred delegates
10 elected to the constitutional convention were African
11 American, making that convention the first meeting of black
12 and white lawmakers in the state's history; and

13 WHEREAS, the delegates to that convention framed a
14 constitution which established equal apportionment, created
15 the constitutional office of lieutenant governor, guaranteed
16 property rights for married women, curtailed imprisonment for
17 debt, and laid aside one-fifth of the state's annual revenue
18 for the support of free, public, universal education; and

19 WHEREAS, since 1867, generations of African American
20 Alabamians have distinguished themselves in multifaceted
21 campaigns large and small to protect the right to vote for all
22 citizens, suffrage being a cherished and long-sought
23 constitutional right; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby commemorate the

1 sesquicentennial anniversary of the first votes cast and first
2 public offices held by African Americans in the State of
3 Alabama.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

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 adopted by the House 04-MAY-17.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

19-MAY-17

Adopted