

1 HJR71  
2 205456-1  
3 By Representatives McClammy and McCutcheon  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 27-FEB-20

CREATING THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, in 1806, when the United States was still young and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal riders was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from middle Georgia to coastal Alabama; as the likelihood of another battle with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly move troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming more evident; in June 1810, Colonel Richard Sparks, the commanding officer of Fort Stoddert located in Mobile County, Alabama, was ordered by U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis to inspect and document these horse paths in order to mark a military road so that troops and supplies could be sent to defend the Gulf Coast; a second scouting party from Fort Stoddert was led by 1st Lieutenant John Roger Nelson Lockett who made the first significant survey for road construction in land that would later become Alabama; on July 11, 1811, Brigadier General Wade Hampton was directed to immediately 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, successfully linking Fort Stoddert to  
7 the Chattahoochee River, at which point the Federal Road  
8 merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path between  
9 Athens, Georgia and New Orleans, Louisiana to become a major  
10 travel route for pioneers to the Old Southwest, including  
11 Alabama; and

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

25 WHEREAS, the Federal Road became a well-traveled  
26 stagecoach route for those going through Alabama; nearly two

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

3 WHEREAS, those remaining portions of the Federal  
4 Road are underutilized; the identification and promotion of  
5 the Federal Road could create a tourist attraction spanning  
6 multiple Alabama counties and bringing history and nature  
7 enthusiasts to some of Alabama's oldest communities; now  
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Old  
11 Federal Road Task Force.

12 (a) The task force shall be comprised of the  
13 following members:

14 (1) The Director of the Alabama Historical  
15 Commission or his or her designee.

16 (2) The Director of the Alabama Department of  
17 Archives and History or his or her designee.

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

21 (4) Three members of the Alabama Senate appointed by  
22 the Lieutenant Governor.

23 (5) Three members of the Alabama House of  
24 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

25 (6) The Director of the Alabama Tourism Department  
26 or his or her designee.

1           (7) One member from each of the congressional  
2 districts in which the Federal Road was located appointed by  
3 the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the  
4 Senate.

5           (8) The Director of the Alabama Department of  
6 Transportation or his or her designee.

7           (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate  
8 their appointments to assure that the committee is inclusive  
9 and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and  
10 economic diversity of the state.

11           (c) The chair and vice chair of the task force shall  
12 be elected at the first meeting of the task force, which shall  
13 be called for by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
14 no later than September 1, 2020. The task force shall  
15 thereafter meet at the call of the chair or on a motion of a  
16 majority of its members.

17           (d) The task force shall study all aspects of how  
18 best to identify and promote the Old Federal Road in this  
19 state, including how best to access state and federal support  
20 and resources in maintenance and signage. The task force shall  
21 present its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the  
22 Legislature and the Governor on or before the tenth  
23 legislative day of each regular legislative session.

24           (e) Members of the task force shall be entitled to  
25 their legislative compensation, per diem, and travel expenses  
26 for each day they attend a meeting of the committee, in

1       accordance with Amendment 871 of the Constitution of Alabama  
2       of 1901.