

1 HR202
2 158737-1
3 By Representatives Baughn, Merrill, Poole, Roberts, Black,
4 Greer, Harper, England, Morrow and Burdine
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 20-FEB-14

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 RECOGNIZING HISTORIC BYLER ROAD.

9
10 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature recognizes the
11 historical and scenic byway significance and importance of the
12 entire Byler Road that is located in Lauderdale, Colbert,
13 Lawrence, Franklin, Winston, Walker, Fayette, and Tuscaloosa
14 Counties; and

15 WHEREAS, Byler Road is significant in Alabama's
16 history as the first public road enacted by the Alabama
17 Legislature and approved by Governor William W. Bibb on
18 December 16, 1819, two days after Alabama became a state; and

19 WHEREAS, Byler Road is a myriad of layers of Alabama
20 history and is an important part of the initial fabric of the
21 State of Alabama that merits historical and scenic byway
22 recognition; and

23 WHEREAS, according to early historians, Byler Road
24 originated as a buffalo and animal trail, then an Indian
25 Trail, to a public road vital for commerce, travel, and
26 communications; and

1 WHEREAS, the Indian Trail that preceded the Byler
2 Road was essential to the way of life of prehistoric Indian
3 people from Paleo-Indian through the Mississippian periods of
4 the prehistoric archaeological record, and of historic
5 Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw Indian people; and

6 WHEREAS, Byler Road was a thoroughfare for the
7 influx of early settlers, most of Scots-Irish descent with
8 bold resolve, who were among the first Caucasian inhabitants
9 of Northwest Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, Byler Road was used by Union and
11 Confederate soldiers during the Civil War; and

12 WHEREAS, Byler Road is the middle link that
13 connected Mobile Trace to Jackson's Military Road and created
14 an important transportation artery between Mobile, Alabama,
15 and Nashville, Tennessee; and

16 WHEREAS, Byler Road is associated with prominent
17 Alabama historical figures who lived along or adjacent to the
18 Byler Road route including Indian Chieftains Tuskaloosa,
19 Doublehead, and George Colbert, as well as Jesse Owens,
20 General Joseph Wheeler, first Confederate States of America
21 Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker, Helen Keller, John Byler,
22 Jacob Pruitt, and others; and

23 WHEREAS, Byler Road is a pleasurable scenic driving
24 experience, a visual environment combining natural and
25 man-made features including landform, bodies of water,
26 vegetation, wildlife, geological formation, artifacts, and
27 historical sites; there are also active and passive

1 recreational experiences and county-unique events, fairs, and
2 folklore; and

3 WHEREAS, among the distinctive scenic locations
4 along Byler Road are Shoals Creek, where Byler Road and
5 Jackson's Military Road connect; Wilson Lake at the Town of
6 Bainbridge; Bainbridge Loop; Byler Gap at Mount Hope, where
7 the road elevates 500 feet from the Tennessee Valley Floor to
8 the Cumberland Plateau; Kinlock Falls in the William B.
9 Bankhead National Forest; and Rocky Ravine Park in Haleyville,
10 Alabama; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Section 1 of the Alabama law
13 establishing Byler Road as a public road, dated December 16,
14 1819, best defines the portion of the Byler Road recognized
15 herein for its historical significance, scenic beauty, and
16 continuing importance to the people of this great state.