

1 SJR17  
2 156211-1  
3 By Senator Taylor  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14

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8 DESIGNATING THE JIM BYARD, JR., BRIDGE.

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10 WHEREAS, Jim Byard, Jr., has been focused on  
11 community and economic development for his entire public  
12 service career; and

13 WHEREAS, in January 2011, Governor Robert Bentley  
14 asked Jim to put his community development skills to work on  
15 behalf of the state, naming him Director of the Alabama  
16 Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA); and

17 WHEREAS, as ADECA director, Jim serves in Governor  
18 Bentley's Cabinet, oversees a staff of 200, and manages a \$350  
19 million annual budget; Jim's daily work revolves around  
20 economic development projects, local infrastructure  
21 development and community enhancement projects, workforce  
22 development services, alternative energy and energy  
23 conservation measures, water resource management, and  
24 strengthening public safety in all of Alabama's 67 counties;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, following the deadly tornadoes of April  
27 2011, the Governor assigned Jim's office the added

1 responsibility of coordinating the state's role in long-term  
2 community recovery; and

3 WHEREAS, ADECA awards hundreds of grants each year  
4 to city and county governments and nonprofit organizations  
5 throughout Alabama in support of community development; and

6 WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor, Prattville  
7 experienced rapid residential and business growth with many  
8 national retailers opening in the city, including Alabama's  
9 first Bass Pro Shop; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2004-2005, Jim served as President of  
11 the Alabama League of Municipalities and, in 2009-2010, he  
12 served on the Board of Directors of the National League of  
13 Cities; and

14 WHEREAS, in further public service, Jim currently  
15 serves on the boards of directors of the Accelerate Alabama  
16 Alliance, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama  
17 Foundation, the Alabama Research Alliance, the American Red  
18 Cross, the United Way of Autauga County, and the Prattville  
19 YMCA; he is a past president of the Prattville Kiwanis Club;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in  
22 political science with double minors in business and sociology  
23 from Troy University Montgomery; he and his wife, Beverly,  
24 live in Prattville with their three children, Marylise, James  
25 III, and Richard; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of the many

1 accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama and  
2 the Prattville area, we hereby designate the new bridge on  
3 West 4th Street, Highway 82 W, approximately one-half mile  
4 from the Prattville Courthouse, the Jim Byard, Jr., Bridge.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appropriate  
6 officials are requested to establish and maintain signs or  
7 markers designating the bridge.