

1 SJR63
2 150385-1
3 By Senator Waggoner
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-APR-13

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8 RECOGNIZING THE COMMERCE, TRADE, AND CULTURAL
9 EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
10 AND WELCOMING HIS EXCELLENCY RYSZARD SCHNEPF, AMBASSADOR OF
11 POLAND TO THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SOUTHEAST U.S. - POLAND
12 BUSINESS SUMMIT IN BIRMINGHAM IN APRIL 2013.

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14 WHEREAS, the Republic of Poland and the United
15 States have a long-standing historical relationship dating
16 back to 1609 when the records of the Jamestown Colony note
17 Polish immigrants as members of the colony and later Polish
18 immigrants played a major role in the American Revolutionary
19 War; and

20 WHEREAS, today, according to the most recent federal
21 census, there are more than 22,000 people of Polish heritage
22 living in Alabama and many Alabama companies are doing
23 business with and investing in Poland; and

24 WHEREAS, the Birmingham International Center, in
25 collaboration with the Alabama International Trade Center, the
26 U.S. Commercial Service, the Export Alabama Alliance, and the
27 Polish American Chamber of Commerce, presented a successful

1 workshop on "Doing Business in Poland" in April 2011, and
2 thereafter trade missions began from Alabama to Poland in
3 March 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Commerce, on
5 behalf of the Export Alabama Alliance, released the 2012
6 Alabama trade strategy: "Accelerate Alabama Exports, A Driver
7 for Economic Development" which includes, as a part of its
8 strategy, business opportunities with Poland; and

9 WHEREAS, the Birmingham International Center is
10 developing a program to spotlight the country of Poland to
11 provide educational programs to the students and teachers in
12 Alabama about Poland and to assist Alabama businesses with
13 creating opportunities for export and import with Poland; and

14 WHEREAS, Poland is the fastest growing and most
15 stable economy in the European Union and the Polish people
16 continue to demonstrate a strong affinity for the United
17 States and its products; and

18 WHEREAS, Poland's size and location affords access
19 to the large European Union market; and

20 WHEREAS, his Excellency Ryszard Schnepf, the
21 Ambassador of Poland to the United States, plans to attend the
22 Southeast U.S. - Poland Business Summit to be held by the
23 Birmingham International Center in Birmingham April 15 and 16,
24 2013, and the Ambassador's Dinner held in conjunction
25 therewith on April 13, 2013; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Legislature

1 recognizes the important commerce, trade, and cultural
2 exchange between the United States and the Republic of Poland,
3 and extends its most gracious and cordial welcome of his
4 Excellency, Ryszard Schnepf, the Ambassador of Poland to the
5 United States, on the occasion of his visit to Birmingham for
6 the Southeast U.S. - Poland Business Summit in April 2013.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
8 resolution be made available for appropriate presentation.