

1 SJR8
2 187998-1
3 By Senators Sanders and Orr
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

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8 JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CAHAWBA AS
9 THE FIRST PERMANENT CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, bound by rivers on three sides, the Town of
12 Cahawba, spelled "Cahaba" after 1850, boasts a long history of
13 settlement including Native Americans and French, British, and
14 Spanish colonist; and

15 WHEREAS, empowered by the state Legislature to
16 establish a permanent capital in Cahawba, William Wyatt Bibb,
17 Alabama's first Governor, patterned the town on Philadelphia
18 and secured the construction of a two-story statehouse; and

19 WHEREAS, Cahawba was the capital of Alabama from
20 1820 to 1826, through the state's first four governors, eleven
21 meetings of the state Supreme Court, and seven sessions of the
22 Legislature, including the state's first special session,
23 which dealt with reapportionment; and

24 WHEREAS, many of the laws and judicial rulings which
25 provided the foundation for the new state's government were
26 enacted at Cahawba; and

1 WHEREAS, during its service as the state's capital,
2 Cahawba grew into a town of more than 1,000 residents, a place
3 of commerce with two newspapers and numerous inns, stores, and
4 the first state bank, built in 1824; and

5 WHEREAS, on December 13, 1825, the state Legislature
6 voted to relocate the state capital to Tuscaloosa; and

7 WHEREAS, now a property of the Alabama Historical
8 Commission, the Old Cahawba Archeological Site continues to be
9 an important resource for understanding Alabama's early
10 history as a state; and

11 WHEREAS, Alabama is currently engaged in a
12 commemoration of the Bicentennial of Statehood, a three-year
13 celebration of the people, places, and events that form our
14 rich history; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby recognize Cahawba
17 as the first permanent capital of the State of Alabama.