

SJR85 INTRODUCED



1 FG0B5D-1
2 By Senator Gudger
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 24-May-23
5 2023 Regular Session



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SJR_____ DECLARING CULLMAN COUNTY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AS THE ALABAMA STATE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.

WHEREAS, when the City of Cullman, Alabama, was founded, settlers soon realized that its sandy, fertile soil was ideal for growing strawberries; in 1897, The Cullman Tribune reported that strawberries were more profitable than cotton; Cullman's location along the railroad allowed for them to be shipped nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Cullman hosted its first Strawberry Jubilee in May 1905 and by the time Cullman launched its inaugural Strawberry Festival on May 13, 1939, there were approximately 22,000 acres of strawberry fields in production; the early celebrations included a softball game, a fiddler's contest, radio and television programs, a large parade with prizes for the best float, high school bands, and community street dancing and singing; there was an historical pageant, a Queen's Ball, and a Grand March; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1947, Governor "Big Jim" Folsom entertained the crowd of the 7th annual festival as a member of a band called the Strawberry Pickers; and

WHEREAS, Cullman County has a national reputation for growing the highest quality strawberries and is one of Alabama's top producers of the delicate, delicious crop; and

WHEREAS, today, the Cullman Strawberry Festival is a



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29 community event that attracts more than 25,000 attendees
30 from 20 different states; participants experience a festival
31 full of entertainment, concerts, cooking contests, artisan
32 and craft vendors, a Miss Strawberry Festival pageant, and
33 lots of locally-grown strawberries; this annual festival is
34 enjoying a modern resurgence while celebrating the rich
35 history of strawberry production in Cullman; now therefore,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
37 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we are proud to declare the
38 Cullman County Strawberry Festival as the Alabama State
39 Strawberry Festival, and this resolution serves as evidence
40 of this declaration and our high esteem for the historic
41 festival and the community of Cullman County.