

1 HR975
2 122059-1
3 By Representatives Hurst and Johnson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 21-APR-10

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8 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
9 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
10 JOINTLY STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING A NEW ACCESS HIGHWAY
11 TO CHEAHA STATE PARK.
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13 WHEREAS, Cheaha Mountain, the state's highest point,
14 and Cheaha State Park are located in the majestic Talladega
15 National Forest in Clay and Cleburne Counties; and

16 WHEREAS, Cheaha State Park was opened to the public
17 in 1933 and is Alabama's oldest continuously operating state
18 park; and

19 WHEREAS, thousands of visitors travel annually to
20 the park to enjoy its mountain vistas, trails, lake, and other
21 recreational facilities and resort amenities; yet thousands
22 more are discouraged from visiting the park because access
23 from Interstate 20 is so difficult; and

24 WHEREAS, the park is accessible from I-20 only by a
25 very winding and slow traveling two-lane road that leads to
26 the park; and

1 WHEREAS, there is, however, a current project
2 creating a four-lane highway from I-20 to Alabama Highway 21;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, a new access road from Highway 21 traveling
5 more directly to the park would drastically reduce the
6 distance and travel time from I-20; and

7 WHEREAS, a new access route to the park would
8 significantly increase tourism not only to the parks and
9 resort, but also to the surrounding areas of Anniston, Oxford,
10 Munsford, and Talladega; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
12 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we request that the
13 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the
14 Department of Transportation conduct a joint study on the
15 feasibility of building a new access road to Cheaha State Park
16 from Highway 21.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
18 resolution be provided to the Commissioner of Conservation and
19 Natural Resources and the Director of Transportation for their
20 consideration.

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon the conclusion of the
22 joint feasibility study, the Director of Transportation is
23 requested to provide a copy of the findings and suggestions of
24 the study to the Speaker of the House.