

1 SJR8
2 147729-1
3 By Senator Bedford
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-FEB-13

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7
8 RECOGNIZING FRANKLIN COUNTY AS THE WATERMELON
9 CAPITAL OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, the Franklin County Watermelon Festival
12 began in 1981 when a group of local farmers gathered to sell
13 their harvest of watermelons and thereby created what was
14 destined to become the largest festival in Franklin County;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, this annual festival is organized by the
17 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by
18 Franklin County businesses and individuals; and

19 WHEREAS, the two-day event on the third weekend of
20 August is held at the Franklin County seat in the City of
21 Russellville, where more than 35,000 guests are welcomed to
22 this festival each year from neighboring counties and states;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, civic clubs and organizations participate
25 with their own special watermelon events as a time of
26 fund-raising; and

1 WHEREAS, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
2 sponsors Watermelon Contests as well as the Watermelon Pageant
3 that produces a Queen for the festival; awards are presented
4 for best-dressed melon, seed spitting, best-tasting melon,
5 most unusual melon, and of course the largest, heaviest melon;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Franklin County Watermelon Festival is
8 made possible by dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly year
9 round to produce the best of entertainment, arts and crafts,
10 food, activities, and watermelon to please every palate; now
11 therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Franklin County is hereby
14 recognized as the Watermelon Capital of Alabama, and it is
15 directed that a copy of this resolution be provided for
16 appropriate presentation and display at the 2013 Franklin
17 County Watermelon Festival, with best wishes for success on
18 this occasion and far into the future.