

1 HJR102
2 160768-5
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 30-JAN-14

1
2 ENGROSSED

3
4 CREATING THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD TASK FORCE.

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6 WHEREAS, in 1806 when the United States was still
7 young and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal
8 riders was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from
9 middle Georgia to costal Alabama. As the likelihood of another
10 battle with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly
11 move troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming
12 more evident. In June 1810, Colonel Richard Sparks, the
13 commanding officer of Fort Stoddert located in Mobile County,
14 Alabama, was ordered by U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis
15 to inspect and document these horse paths in order to mark a
16 military road so that troops and supplies could be sent to
17 defend the Gulf Coast. A second scouting party from Fort
18 Stoddert was led by 1st Lieutenant John Roger Nelson Lockett
19 who made the first significant survey for road construction in
20 land that would later become Alabama. On July 11, 1811,
21 Brigadier General Wade Hampton was directed to immediately
22 begin construction of three wagon roads through the Creek
23 Nation - the second of these roads became known as the Federal
24 Road; and

25 WHEREAS, with construction at last beginning in
26 1811, the "Old Federal Road" was built from west to east

1 connecting Fort Stoddert to Fort Wilkinson, located near
2 Milledgeville, Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, The Old Federal Road successfully connected
4 Fort Stoddert to the Chattahoochee River. At that point, the
5 Federal Road merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path
6 that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana. This
7 path quickly became a major travel route for pioneers to the
8 area once known as the Old Southwest; and

9 WHEREAS, from its start as a narrow horse path used
10 to carry the mails, the Old Federal Road underwent great
11 development and became a major military road connecting early
12 American forts in the Creek Lands and the Mississippi
13 Territory. Acting as the interstate highway of its day, when
14 "Alabama Fever" raged through the Carolinas and Georgia, the
15 Old Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers to the Old
16 Southwest. As such, the Federal Road directly contributed to
17 the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and
18 1820 with Alabama's population growing faster than that of
19 either Mississippi or Louisiana during this time. Alabama
20 continued out-distancing both Mississippi and Louisiana in
21 population growth through 1850; and

22 WHEREAS, the Federal Road became a well-traveled
23 stagecoach route for those going through Alabama. Nearly two
24 centuries later, remnants of the Federal Road remain visible;
25 now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Old

1 Federal Road Task Force to be comprised of the following
2 members:

3 (1) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
4 Alabama Historical Commission.

5 (2) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
6 Alabama Department of Archives and History.

7 (3) The president, or his or her designee, of any
8 four-year public college or university that is located within
9 the geographic area of the Old Federal Road.

10 (4) Three members of the Alabama Senate appointed by
11 the Lieutenant Governor.

12 (5) Three members of the Alabama House of
13 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

14 (6) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
15 Alabama Tourism Department.

16 (7) One member from each of the congressional
17 districts in which the Federal Road was located appointed by
18 the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the
19 Senate.

20 (8) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
21 Alabama Department of Transportation.

22 In making the appointments, the appointing
23 authorities shall strive to ensure that the composition of the
24 task force shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender,
25 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.
26 The task force shall annually report to the Legislature by the
27 second legislative day of each regular session the extent to

1 which the task force has complied with the diversity
2 provisions provided for in this resolution.

3 The chair and vice chair of the task force shall be
4 elected at the first meeting of the task force, which shall be
5 called for by the Speaker of the House no later than September
6 1, 2014. The task force shall thereafter meet at the call of
7 the chair or on a motion of a majority of its members.

8 The task force shall study all aspects of how best
9 to identify and promote the Old Federal Road in this state.
10 The task force shall present annual findings, conclusions, and
11 recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on or
12 before the tenth day of each regular legislative session.

13 No funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature
14 may be expended for the work of the task force. Members shall
15 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed as other
16 state employees for per diem expenses as allowed by law, and
17 only to the extent that any funds are available for
18 reimbursement of per diem expenses of the members.

19 Notwithstanding the foregoing, no legislative member
20 may receive state per diem for a meeting of the task force
21 when the Legislature is in session or if a legislative member
22 is being paid any other payments on the same dates for
23 attendance of other state business.

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House of Representatives

Introduced and referred to the
House of Representatives committee
on Rules..... 30-JAN-14

Reported from Rules with 1 substi-
tute and..... 20-MAR-14

Read for the third time and adopted
as amended..... 20-MAR-14

Adopted by Voice Vote

Jeff Woodard
Clerk