

1 HR11
2 171291-1
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-AUG-15

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8 RECOGNIZING THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF LAW ON THE
9 OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

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11 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly
12 presented to the Birmingham School of Law on the occasion of
13 its 100th Anniversary; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Hugh Allen Locke, a prominent
15 Birmingham attorney, Judge of the Chancery Court, and
16 President of the Birmingham Bar Association, launched the
17 Birmingham School of Law in 1915 with the help of Mr. Bowman,
18 another attorney; the founding of the school was inspired by a
19 request from law encyclopedia salesman L.M. Harris for Judge
20 Locke to tutor 23 young men who bought copies of Chadman's
21 Cyclopedia of Law; and

22 WHEREAS, initially, classes were held in Judge
23 Locke's office before being moved to the John Wesley Room at
24 the First Methodist Church; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1918, the law school developed into the
26 Birmingham-Southern College Law Department under the

1 leadership of Judge Locke, who served as dean; later, the law
2 school became the Birmingham School of Law and opened classes
3 at the Birmingham YMCA; when the Great Depression began, Judge
4 Locke moved the school to the Jefferson County Courthouse;
5 during World War II, Judge Locke doubled up on his duties to
6 compensate for the absence of teachers, and he and the school
7 beautifully weathered during this tumultuous period in
8 history; and

9 WHEREAS, following the war, the Birmingham School of
10 Law was approved for veteran's benefits and its enrollment
11 increased at a rapid rate; the Birmingham School of Law
12 employed only practicing attorneys and judges as professors
13 who only taught the area of law they specialized in, a
14 practice that continues today; proud of the school's female
15 students, Judge Locke supported the founding of the State of
16 Alabama's first chapter of Phi Delta Delta legal fraternity
17 during the 1950's; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1962, the written bar examination became
19 a requirement for all law students; shortly thereafter, the
20 law school celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1965; the law
21 school's leaders engaged in a decade long battle against
22 legislation that would threaten to close its doors and the
23 doors of the other two non-accredited law schools in the
24 state; following the death of his father in 1971, Huger A.
25 Locke, Jr., assumed the role of dean and led the effort to
26 save the state's non-accredited schools; in May 1966, the

1 Birmingham School of Law moved its classes to the Frank Nelson
2 Building in downtown Birmingham; current dean James J.
3 Bushnell assumed his duties in 2007 and has helped the school
4 continue its legacy as a top law school; and

5 WHEREAS, under Dean Bushnell's leadership, the
6 school implemented a senior seminar program that includes a
7 bar review course which prepares students for the bar
8 examination, began offering a Saturday full-time program for
9 law students in 2009, and relocated to the Judge Hugh A. Locke
10 Building, which marks the first time the school began holding
11 classes in its own facility; and

12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to recognize
13 the remarkable accomplishments of the Birmingham School of Law
14 and its students and officials on the celebration of this
15 significant milestone; through the years, the Birmingham
16 School of Law has adhered to its noble mission of offering the
17 opportunity for a high quality, affordable legal education to
18 those individuals who cannot attend the traditional law school
19 for financial, family, or occupational reasons; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
21 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Birmingham School of Law
22 is highly honored and commended, and this resolution is
23 offered to its students and faculty in deepest admiration and
24 appreciation, along with sincere best wishes for all future
25 endeavors.