

1 SJR9
2 188000-1
3 By Senators Albritton, Orr and Stuttts
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

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8 JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ST. STEPHENS AS THE
9 TERRITORIAL CAPITAL OF ALABAMA.
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11 WHEREAS, located in Washington County along the
12 Tombigbee River, on land formerly occupied by Native Americans
13 and by French, British, and Spanish colonists, the town of St.
14 Stephens was developed on the site of a 1789 Spanish outpost,
15 Fort San Esteban; and

16 WHEREAS, on March 3, 1817, the Congress of the
17 United States established the Alabama Territory from the
18 eastern portion of the Mississippi Territory; and

19 WHEREAS, on December 10, 1817, Congress designated
20 St. Stephens as Alabama's territorial capital; and

21 WHEREAS, members of the territorial Legislature
22 convened at St. Stephens on January 19, 1818, where they
23 selected Alabama's first representatives in Congress, drew
24 judicial districts, created new counties, and provided for a
25 census in anticipation of statehood; and

1 WHEREAS, in November 1818, the territorial
2 Legislature in St. Stephens made a formal petition for
3 statehood to Congress; and

4 WHEREAS, during the same session, the territorial
5 Legislature voted to relocate the capital temporarily to
6 Huntsville until such time as new facilities were completed in
7 Cahawba; and

8 WHEREAS, now operated by the St. Stephens Historical
9 Commission, the territorial capital is one of the most
10 significant archaeological sites in the state, replete with
11 remnants of Alabama's early political and cultural history;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Alabama is currently engaged in a
14 commemoration of the Bicentennial of Statehood, a three-year
15 celebration of the people, places, and events that form our
16 rich history; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby recognize St.
19 Stephens as the Territorial Capital of Alabama.