

**HJR154 ENROLLED**



1 HJR154  
2 A3A9QQS-2  
3 By Representatives Smith, Bedsole  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 04-Apr-24



## HJR154 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2           COMMENDING ALABAMA PRO ANGLER DUSTIN CONNELL ON HIS  
3 SIXTH BASS PRO TOUR WIN AND ON BEING NAMED THE FIRST-EVER  
4 TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE BASS PRO SHOPS REDCREST COMPETITION.

5  
6           WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations  
7 are herein proudly conveyed to Alabama's own Dustin Connell  
8 for scoring his sixth Bass Pro Tour Win at REDCREST 2024  
9 Powered by Optima Lithium on Lay Lake in Alabama, making him  
10 the first-ever two-time winner of the Bass Pro Shops  
11 REDCREST competition, having claimed the title in 2021; this  
12 championship win is his second of the 2024 season after  
13 having won his fifth Bass Pro Shops Major League Fishing  
14 Championship at Stage One on Toledo Bend earlier this year;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, a native of Clanton, Alabama, Dustin Connell  
17 developed a love and drive for fishing at a very young age;  
18 he learned from his older brother, James, and followed him  
19 to ponds and lakes to fish every chance he could; for hours  
20 at a time, he would fish for bass at Lay Lake; this  
21 experience gave him the home lake advantage for his first  
22 place win on March 17, 2024; and

23           WHEREAS, after fishing for fun for many years, he  
24 competed in his first bass tournament with his brother when  
25 he was only 12 years old; they ended up in second place and  
26 he won \$100; he later said, "The thrill of the hunt, the  
27 competition, the paycheck - every part of that first event  
28 got me hooked on tournament fishing"; and



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29           WHEREAS, a Chilton County High School Class of 2008  
30 graduate, Dustin Connell matriculated to The University of  
31 Alabama and earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, a  
32 degree program he chose to help him work with sponsors as a  
33 pro angler, which was always his motivating goal; he  
34 continued to fish every tournament he could as a high school  
35 and college angler; but he had to work long, hard hours in  
36 construction after college in order to be in a position to  
37 pursue tournament fishing full-time; and

38           WHEREAS, his determination and efforts paid off, and  
39 in 2017 he claimed an Elite Series win and was named  
40 B.A.S.S. Rookie of the Year; in 2018, he earned an  
41 invitation to join Major League Fishing (MLF) on the Bass  
42 Pro Tour; and

43           WHEREAS, winning Stage Three of the 2022 Bass Pro  
44 Tour pushed him to nearly \$1 million in career earnings, and  
45 he followed it up with a win at Stage Six of the 2022 Bass  
46 Pro Tour and a win at Stage One of the 2024 Bass Pro Tour;  
47 this win made Dustin Connell one of the winningest anglers  
48 in Bass Pro Tour history as only Jacob Wheeler and Ott DeFoe  
49 had won three or more events on the Bass Pro Tour; he capped  
50 off the 2022 season with his fourth Bass Pro Tour win at  
51 Stage Seven at Mille Lacs Lake; and

52           WHEREAS, in 2024, Dustin Connell scored his fifth  
53 Bass Pro Tour win at Stage One on Toledo Bend; this  
54 remarkable achievement earned him the first-place prize of  
55 \$100,000 at the MLF Bass Pro Tour B&W Trailer Hitches Stage  
56 One at Toledo Bend, sponsored by Power-Pole; his



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57 Championship Round total nearly doubled the rest of the  
58 10-man field, earning the win by a whopping 44-pound,  
59 2-ounce margin over the second place winner; Connell's total  
60 marked the biggest day for any angler during the event; and

61 WHEREAS, the occasion of Dustin Connell winning his  
62 sixth Bass Pro Tour Major League Fishing Competition is an  
63 accomplishment to be celebrated; this triumph won him the  
64 first-place prize of \$300,000; his dedication, strong desire  
65 for success, constant training, and tireless and diligent  
66 efforts to achieve excellence serve as a valuable example to  
67 aspiring athletes across the country and in his home State  
68 of Alabama; now therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
70 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we highly commend and  
71 congratulate Dustin Connell for his outstanding victory at  
72 the MLF Bass Pro Shops REDCREST 2024, clinching his sixth  
73 win on the Bass Pro Tour and making him the first-ever  
74 two-time winner of the REDCREST event, and we hereby  
75 dedicate this resolution to him with utmost admiration,  
76 along with sincere best wishes for continued success.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 09-Apr-24.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**16-Apr-24**

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Adopted