

HJR211 ENROLLED



1 HJR211
2 6GMT1ZZ-2
3 By Representative Rigsby
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 18-Apr-24



HJR211 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2 RECOGNIZING CIGAR BOX GUITAR DAY IN HUNTSVILLE,
3 ALABAMA, ON JUNE 1, 2024.

4

5 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, June
6 1, 2024, is hereby recognized as Cigar Box Guitar Day in
7 Huntsville, Alabama; and

8 WHEREAS, homemade cigar box instruments have existed
9 since the 1840s; they were important in the rise of jug
10 bands and the blues, often used by impoverished African
11 Americans; and instructions on how to build a cigar box
12 banjo were published in the 1890 edition of Boy Scouts of
13 America founder Daniel Beard's "American Boy's Handy Book";
14 and there was a resurgence of the homemade musical
15 instruments during the Great Depression; and

16 WHEREAS, the modern revival of the cigar box guitar
17 has been gathering momentum, particularly in Huntsville,
18 Alabama; in 2005, Matt Crunk organized the first Cigar Box
19 Guitar Extravaganza, now known as the Cigar Box Guitar
20 Festival, which has run annually with this year marking its
21 20th consecutive event, making it the longest-running cigar
22 box guitar festival in the world; the festival was featured
23 in the documentary film, "Inside the Box"; and

24 WHEREAS, the world's only brick-and-mortar store
25 dedicated to cigar box guitars opened in Lowe Mills Arts &
26 Entertainment in 2010 by John and Pat Nickel; the store has
27 been operated by Jeff and Tara Mello since 2021, who are
28 also the current organizers of the annual festival; in that



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29 same year, luthier Jeff Mello and the store were featured on
30 the WVTM *Chronicle* Special, "Made in 'Bama"; Jeff Mello is a
31 craftsman who has built over 800 cigar box guitars in the
32 last five years and shares his knowledge teaching others to
33 do the same; and

34 WHEREAS, the 20th annual celebration of the world's
35 longest-running Cigar Box Guitar Festival is scheduled for
36 May 31 to June 2, 2024; now therefore,

37 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
38 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That June 1, 2024, is recognized
39 as Cigar Box Guitar Day in Huntsville, Alabama, and this
40 resolution is offered to the city, its residents, and its
41 craftsmen and craftswomen who keep this traditional American
42 musical art alive.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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 25-Apr-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

02-May-24

Adopted