

HJR211 INTRODUCED



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



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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the world's only brick-and-mortar store
dedicated to cigar box guitars opened in Lowe Mills Arts &
Entertainment in 2010 by John and Pat Nickel; the store has



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29 been operated by Jeff and Tara Mello since 2021, who are
30 also the current organizers of the annual festival; in that
31 same year, luthier Jeff Mello and the store were featured on
32 the WVTM *Chronicle* Special, "Made in 'Bama"; Jeff Mello is a
33 craftsman who has built over 800 cigar box guitars in the
34 last five years and shares his knowledge teaching others to
35 do the same; and

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

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