

HJR161 INTRODUCED



1 HJR161
2 89LX2H2-1
3 By Representative Lawrence
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-Mar-25



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4 HJR___ CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK BELT
5 TREASURES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER.
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7 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature takes great pride in
8 recognizing organizations that significantly contribute to
9 the cultural, economic, and educational development of our
10 state; and

11 WHEREAS, the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts
12 Center, located in Camden, Alabama, is a shining example of
13 such an organization, proudly celebrating its 20th
14 Anniversary of enriching Alabama's Black Belt region; and

15 WHEREAS, established in February 2005, the Black Belt
16 Treasures Cultural Arts Center operates as a nonprofit
17 organization with a mission to invigorate the economy of
18 Alabama's Black Belt region through the sale and promotion
19 of fine arts and heritage crafts, as well as the provision
20 of arts education opportunities; and

21 WHEREAS, the center was born out of a collaborative
22 tourism initiative spearheaded by the Alabama-Tombigbee
23 Regional Commission, Ala-Tom Resource Conservation and
24 Development Council, and The University of Alabama Center
25 for Economic Development; and

26 WHEREAS, the center proudly represents more than 580
27 artists, including gifted authors, musicians, painters,
28 sculptors, potters, basket-weavers, quilters, and



HJR161 INTRODUCED

woodworkers; these artists have collectively achieved over \$2.27 million in sales through the center, which annually welcomes an average of 13,000 visitors to its gallery; and

WHEREAS, the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center has garnered national acclaim through staff presentations at professional conferences, features in respected publications, and numerous awards, further solidifying its status as a beacon of excellence in arts promotion and education; and

WHEREAS, Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center serves as the centerpiece of an arts economy revitalization that involves artist development and arts education; it encourages residents and visitors to experience the arts, culture, and place; and

WHEREAS, the center's dedicated staff and volunteers tirelessly engage with schools, civic organizations, and community arts groups, offering artist demonstrations, workshops, and presentations that inspire creativity and foster a deep appreciation for the arts; and

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center has become the cornerstone of an arts-driven economic revitalization, fostering artist development and arts education while inviting residents and visitors alike to explore and celebrate the unique culture, history, and artistry of the Black Belt region; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby commend and



HJR161 INTRODUCED

57 celebrate the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center on
58 the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, recognizing its
59 invaluable contributions to the cultural and economic
60 vitality of Alabama's Black Belt region.