

HJR47 INTRODUCED



1 HJR47
2 B2DN4JJ-1
3 By Representatives Lee, Paramore, Brinyark, Shirey,
4 Holk-Jones, Gray, Rafferty, Warren, Sorrells, DuBose, Rigsby
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 11-Feb-25



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HJR___ COMMENDING THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, we are pleased and proud to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and join in commemorating the observance to be launched this month and celebrated throughout this sesquicentennial year; and

WHEREAS, before the department was created, rampant epidemics led to losses of life from deadly diseases that are now preventable; and at a time when maternal mortality was high and only one in three infants lived to reach one year of age, members of the Alabama General Assembly realized the need to establish public health activities and promote sanitary science for the good of the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama General Assembly passed a law on February 19, 1875, to establish a system of hygiene for the state that would "preserve and prolong human life"; they created a program of education to "elucidate all persons on the laws that govern a healthful existence" and a method of enforcing the health laws "for the welfare of their fellow creatures"; the state medical leaders foresaw a vision of health, "wonderful in proportion, exempt from bodily suffering"; and



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29 WHEREAS, led by the State Health Officer from its
30 inception, the department has endeavored to improve the
31 health of the state's citizens; it has investigated and
32 helped contain outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as
33 tuberculosis; diseases associated with poor hygiene and poor
34 sanitation, such as typhoid; and diseases associated with
35 poor nutrition, like pellagra and goiter; and

36 WHEREAS, Alabama was the first state in the nation to
37 open a county health department facility in every county in
38 the state and, under the direction and guidance of twelve
39 State Health Officers, has remained committed to a rich
40 history of serving the public by striving to keep Alabamians
41 healthy, safe, and informed; and

42 WHEREAS, ADPH touches the lives of every person
43 living in Alabama while promoting and embodying the core
44 values of excellence, integrity, innovation, and community,
45 as well as providing high-quality services to clients, and
46 serving them with compassion, empathy, fairness, and
47 respect; and

48 WHEREAS, since its founding, ADPH has made many
49 notable contributions and has played a vital role in
50 safeguarding Alabama's health by taking evidence-based
51 approaches to improve health outcomes, prevent injuries and
52 deaths through early intervention, and promote healthy
53 lifestyles; and

54 WHEREAS, the vision of healthy people, healthy
55 communities, and a healthy Alabama has endured well into the
56 21st Century; now therefore,



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
58 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we proudly congratulate and
59 commend the Alabama Department of Public Health on its
60 achievements upon the celebration of its Sesquicentennial
61 Anniversary, and we offer this resolution for appropriate
62 display in accord with the ADPH mission of promoting,
63 protecting, and improving Alabama's health.