

# HR159 INTRODUCED



1 HR159  
2 BYH3WJ4-1  
3 By Representatives Chestnut, Lawrence  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 20-Mar-25



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HR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE ROBERT C. HATCH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACHES FOR WINNING THE 2025 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 1A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, we join the students, coaches, parents, and faculty at Robert C. Hatch High School in celebrating the Boys Basketball Team's Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 1A State Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2025, at the BJCC Legacy Arena in Birmingham, the R.C. Hatch Bobcats took down the Brantley Bulldogs, 69-67, claiming its 11th AHSAA state basketball title in program history; and

WHEREAS, the state title was an AHSAA-record 11th, as R.C. Hatch High School now holds the crown for the most state championships in AHSAA boys high school basketball history; they have won state titles in five different decades with titles in 1978, 1985, 1987, 1994, 1995, five in a six-year stretch from 2003-2008, and now, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on a team filled with exceptional athletes, several players stood out with their game-changing play; tournament MVP, Isiah Thomas, finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds, and he was 9-of-10 from the foul line; joining him on the All-Tournament Team are Theotis Dudley, who added 16



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29 points and six rebounds, and Merion Jones, who had 10 points  
30 and seven rebounds; Jones' emphatic dunk late in the final  
31 quarter brought the large crowd to its feet; and

32 WHEREAS, R.C. Hatch senior guard Lavonte Witherspoon  
33 was also a notable standout, sealing the victory by sinking  
34 two free throws with seven seconds remaining; he finished  
35 with 13 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; and

36 WHEREAS, the R.C. Hatch High School Boys Basketball  
37 Program has been superbly coached and inspired by Head  
38 Varsity Coach Kris Hood and assistant coaches Sederick  
39 Benison, Jamaal Hunter, and Terry Pope; under their  
40 leadership, the players have broadened their knowledge of  
41 the game, refined their skills in execution, and  
42 strengthened the school's tradition of superior play and  
43 true sportsmanship; and

44 WHEREAS, special commendations and appreciation are  
45 also extended to scorekeeper, Johnathan Jenkins; team  
46 trainers, Richard Bryant, Demarion Taylor, and Kaleb Hood;  
47 and team manager, Acie Brown; and

48 WHEREAS, the talented members of the R.C. Hatch High  
49 School Boys Basketball Team are Marion Jones, LaVonte  
50 Witherspoon, Christopher Clark, Theotis Dudley, MaHari Mayo,  
51 Isiah Thomas, Frederick Wilson, Cortayvius Wilson, Jahah  
52 Jackson, William Jackson, and Ronzavian Lewis; together,  
53 they proved that "R.C. Hatch is Back"; and

54 WHEREAS, the R.C. Hatch High School Bobcats'  
55 noteworthy success is a tremendous source of pride for their  
56 families, classmates, teachers, Principal Boris Hurst,



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57 Assistant Principal Lonnie Sigler, Athletic Director Melissa  
58 Jones, and the entire community, whose dedication and  
59 support have played a crucial role in motivating the team;  
60 now therefore,

61 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
62 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Robert C. Hatch High School  
63 Boys Basketball Team and coaches are highly honored and  
64 commended on earning the 2025 AHSAA Class 1A Basketball  
65 Championship Title, and we hereby dedicate this resolution  
66 to them with utmost admiration, along with best wishes for  
67 continued success in all future endeavors.