

SJR60 ENROLLED



1 SJR60
2 84MZB2H-2
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 03-Apr-25



SJR60 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR___ HONORING DANIEL PRATT AS ALABAMA'S FIRST GREAT
5 INDUSTRIALIST.

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7 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt, born in 1799 in Temple, New
8 Hampshire, was a visionary, industrialist, workforce
9 developer, landscape architect, and philanthropist who
10 profoundly influenced the State of Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt, after receiving training as a
12 carpenter, traveled to the southern United States and
13 eventually settled in Alabama, where he founded the town of
14 Prattville in 1838, transforming a swampy landscape into a
15 thriving industrial hub; businesses he started include a
16 grist mill; a woolen mill; blacksmith shop; sawmill; horse
17 mill shop; door, sash, and blind shop; a carriage and wagon
18 shop; tin shop; foundry; general store; cotton mill; and a
19 mercantile, among others; and

20 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt is credited with building the
21 first dam in Alabama; his purpose as a community builder was
22 to enhance its generational residents with a lifestyle of
23 growth, spiritually, mentally, and physically; his plan was
24 to develop a modernized workforce to populate his first
25 industrial manufacturing business; and

26 WHEREAS, he was also a champion of, and charter
27 investor for, railroads noting that Alabama had health and
28 water power, but lacked the third leg of the stool:



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29 accessibility to market; and

30 WHEREAS, he established the Daniel Pratt Gin Company,
31 which became the largest manufacturer of cotton gins in the
32 world, setting new standards for industrial excellence and
33 contributing to the economic development of Alabama; his
34 internationally renowned gin company operated for nearly 180
35 years, from 1833 to 2012, under successor names such as the
36 Continental Gin Company and the Continental Eagle
37 Corporation; and

38 WHEREAS, a devout and steadfast Christian, Daniel
39 Pratt was deeply committed to philanthropy, providing land
40 and funds for the construction of schools and churches, and
41 promoting cultural enrichment through libraries, music
42 societies, and art galleries for the benefit of his
43 community; and

44 WHEREAS, although Mr. Pratt died in 1873, his gin
45 factory remained active on the global stage, driving
46 industrial innovation and expanding into new sectors; his
47 son-in-law, Henry Fairchild DeBardleben, carried forward
48 Pratt's vision, spearheading the growth of the iron and coal
49 industry in what would become Birmingham; and

50 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt's remarkable contributions to
51 the development of Alabama's iron and coal region are
52 honored through the naming of industrial ventures such as
53 the Pratt Coal & Coke Company, Pratt Coal & Iron Company,
54 Pratt Mines, and the Pratt Seam, which fostered the growth
55 of Pratt City; the success of Alabama's iron and coal
56 industries is deeply rooted in Pratt's visionary efforts to



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57 develop the state's mineral resources; and

58 WHEREAS, in addition to manufacturing cotton gins,
59 the Continental Gin Company (CGC) became one of the first
60 southern industries to produce munitions for World War II;
61 recognized for both the quality and quantity of its
62 production, CGC was awarded the United States Navy's
63 prestigious "E" Flag for Excellence six times throughout the
64 war; to further support its wartime operations, the company
65 maintained a full-time office in Washington, D.C., for the
66 entire four-year duration; and

67 WHEREAS, CGC played a crucial role in the Manhattan
68 Project by providing heavy piping for the atomic energy
69 program at Oak Ridge demonstrating its commitment to
70 advancing national interests; and

71 WHEREAS, the Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Company
72 collection includes engineering drawings of numerous types
73 of bombshells, munitions, artillery mounts, turrets, and
74 shields manufactured at CGC plants, highlighting its
75 significant contributions to military manufacturing; and

76 WHEREAS, from 1926 to 1959, CGC was owned by the
77 Woodruff family of Atlanta, best known for their ownership
78 of Coca-Cola; showcasing CGC's versatility in manufacturing,
79 the Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Company collection includes
80 engineering drawings for Coca-Cola dispensers from the 1940s
81 and 1950s; and

82 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt was Alabama's first great
83 industrialist and established Prattville as Alabama's first
84 industrial village, laying the foundation for the state's



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85 economic growth; and

86 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt played a pivotal role in the
87 design and construction of the 1851 Alabama State Capitol as
88 the lead commissioner, shaping the state's most iconic
89 government building; and

90 WHEREAS, a copy of Mr. Pratt's architectural drawing
91 of the Capitol is preserved at the Prattaugan Museum, and
92 the circular cantilevered staircases found within the
93 Capitol were a standard architectural feature in the homes
94 Pratt designed and built in Georgia before coming to
95 Alabama, as well as in homes he built in Autauga County; and

96 WHEREAS, Horace King, the renowned bridge builder
97 credited with constructing the Capitol's staircases, was
98 known to Mr. Pratt from his time in Georgia, and Mr. Pratt
99 provided Mr. King with a \$100 model used in the construction
100 of the Chattahoochee River covered bridge in the early
101 1830s; and

102 WHEREAS, in 1846, Pratt constructed a three-story
103 building on St. Charles Street in New Orleans to house
104 cotton gins being shipped to France, Russia, Africa, the
105 United Kingdom, and Mexico, demonstrating his company's
106 global reach and influence; and

107 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt co-founded the Red Mountain
108 Iron & Coal Company in 1862 and faithfully served as its
109 president; and

110 WHEREAS, recognizing the financial difficulties of
111 reconstruction, Daniel Pratt partnered in opening the
112 Wheless-Pratt Bank in New Orleans in 1867; and



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113 WHEEREAS, following the Civil War in 1867, Daniel
114 Pratt was selected to chair the first meeting of the
115 National Association of Textile Manufacturers in New York
116 City, underscoring his prominence in industrialism; and

117 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt was honored with the first
118 honorary degree of Master of Mechanical and Useful Arts by
119 The University of Alabama, recognizing his extraordinary
120 contributions to industry and public welfare; and

121 WHEREAS, though not having the benefit of a formal
122 education himself, Pratt expressed in a private letter that,
123 "No man holds education in a higher estimation than myself";
124 and

125 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt served as a member of the
126 Alabama House of Representatives and continued to invest and
127 encourage all to invest in the state's infrastructure and
128 economic growth throughout his life; and

129 WHEREAS, mindful of his Christian duty, Daniel Pratt
130 declared, "Some pretend to show their works by their faith I
131 hope to show my faith by my works, so long as God blesses me
132 with health and strength"; and

133 WHEREAS, Daniel Pratt was renowned as a great
134 industrialist, but he also earned recognition as a Southern
135 Renaissance man; an advocate for education, he was an
136 architect, patron of the arts, economic developer,
137 statesman, philanthropist; now therefore,

138 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
139 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we celebrate the life and
140 legacy of Daniel Pratt as Alabama's first great



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141 industrialist, whose pioneering achievements in business,
142 manufacturing, infrastructure, and community service have
143 left an enduring mark on the State of Alabama and continue
144 to inspire future generations.

145 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is our duty to follow
146 the example of Daniel Pratt and continue to invest in our
147 communities through our faith, our family, and our fellow
148 man.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR60

Senate 03-Apr-25

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 09-Apr-25

By: Senator Chambliss