

## SJR60 INTRODUCED



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



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4 SJR\_\_\_ HONORING DANIEL PRATT AS ALABAMA'S FIRST GREAT  
5 INDUSTRIALIST.  
6

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:



## SJR60 INTRODUCED

accessibility to market; and

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

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

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

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



## SJR60 INTRODUCED

develop the state's mineral resources; and

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

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

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

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

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



## SJR60 INTRODUCED

economic growth; and

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

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

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

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

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

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



## SJR60 INTRODUCED

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



## **SJR60 INTRODUCED**

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.