

SJR73 INTRODUCED



1 SJR73
2 FK11H5D-1
3 By Senators Coleman, Hatcher, Coleman-Madison, Singleton,
4 Smitherman, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler,
5 Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Elliott, Figures, Givhan,
6 Gudger, Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson,
7 Orr, Price, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnutt, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams
9 RFD: Rules
10 First Read: 15-Apr-25



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4 SJR___ RECOGNIZING APRIL 15, 2025, AS JACKIE ROBINSON DAY IN
5 THE STATE OF ALABAMA.
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7 WHEREAS, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson made
8 history when he stepped onto the field with the Brooklyn
9 Dodgers as the first African American to play Major League
10 Baseball in the modern era, breaking the league's color
11 barrier and marking a turning point in both the sport and
12 the American Civil Rights Movement; and

13 WHEREAS, the Alabama State Legislature is proud to
14 join Major League Baseball and the Jackie Robinson
15 Foundation in recognizing and celebrating the life, legacy,
16 and enduring influence of this baseball giant and American
17 hero; and

18 WHEREAS, Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born on January
19 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, near the Alabama state line,
20 and would go on to break barriers not only on the baseball
21 diamond but throughout American society; and

22 WHEREAS, Robinson's career intersected with Alabama
23 history, including playing in the Negro Leagues at historic
24 Rickwood Field in Birmingham, one of the oldest professional
25 ballparks in the country, which also hosted many other Negro
26 League and Major League greats; and

27 WHEREAS, Alabama is proud of its deep baseball roots
28 and contributions to the Negro Leagues, including legendary



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29 players such as Satchel Paige and Willie Mays, both of whom,
30 like Jackie Robinson, used their platforms to challenge
31 segregation and pave the way for future generations; and

32 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson attended the University of
33 California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he became the school's
34 first four-sport varsity letter winner, excelling in
35 football, basketball, track and field, and baseball; and

36 WHEREAS, Robinson served with distinction in the
37 United States Army during World War II, rising to the rank
38 of Second Lieutenant before receiving an honorable
39 discharge; and

40 WHEREAS, in 1945, he began his professional career in
41 the Negro Leagues with the Kansas City Monarchs, and later
42 that year became the first African American signed to a
43 Major League organization in the modern era, joining the
44 Brooklyn Dodgers' minor league affiliate, the Montreal
45 Royals; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1947, Robinson broke baseball's color
47 barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers, was named Rookie of the
48 Year, and went on to earn National League Most Valuable
49 Player honors in 1949 and lead his team to a World Series
50 Championship in 1955; and

51 WHEREAS, his Hall of Fame career included a .311
52 batting average, 137 home runs, 734 RBIs, 197 stolen bases,
53 and leadership on and off the field; and

54 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the
55 Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962, and his number, 42, was
56 permanently retired by every Major League team in 1997 in



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honor of the 50th anniversary of his debut; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson's post-baseball career included breaking barriers in business and media, founding Black-owned financial institutions, championing civil rights, and advocating for social and economic justice until his passing in 1972; and

WHEREAS, since 2004, Major League Baseball has celebrated Jackie Robinson Day each April 15, and since 2009, every MLB player and coach has worn No. 42 in his honor on that day; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama, in honoring Jackie Robinson's enduring legacy, affirms its commitment to equality, inclusion, and the fight against discrimination in all forms; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That April 15, 2025, be recognized as Jackie Robinson Day in the State of Alabama, in celebration of his profound contributions to the game of baseball, to civil rights, and to the betterment of American society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Legislature proudly joins Major League Baseball and the Jackie Robinson Foundation in acknowledging and honoring this towering figure whose courage, dignity, and determination forever changed the face of American sports and culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be provided to the Jackie Robinson Foundation,



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85 Major League Baseball, and other appropriate organizations
86 as an expression of the State of Alabama's deep respect and
87 recognition of Jackie Robinson's lasting legacy.