

SJR85 INTRODUCED



1 SJR85
2 HGB5J88-1
3 By Senator Orr
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 29-Apr-25



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4 SJR___ COMMENDING THE COOK MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
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6 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,
7 highest commendations are conveyed to the Cook Museum of
8 Natural Science in support of their mission to introduce the
9 natural world to students of all ages in North Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, the Cook Museum of Natural Science began in
11 1968 when John Cook, Sr. opened his professional insect
12 collection to the public by appointment; and

13 WHEREAS, the Cook family, in 2016, expressed their
14 vision of the museum as a more engaging, exciting, and
15 educational experience for the next generation; the new Cook
16 Museum of Natural Science reopened as a nonprofit
17 organization on June 7, 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, today, the Cook Museum of Natural Science is
19 a 62,000 square foot, state-of-the-art natural science
20 museum with STEM classrooms and an exhibition space that
21 holds nine themed galleries, providing a hands-on, immersive
22 experience where kids can explore, interact with, and learn
23 about nature; some of the highlights that museum guests can
24 experience include an immersive cave experience; live
25 animals, including baby alligators, lizards, snakes,
26 insects, jellyfish, fresh and saltwater fish, an endangered
27 Kemp's ridley sea turtle; a forest exhibit with a climbing
28 tree; and much more; and



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29 WHEREAS, since its opening in 2019, the museum has
30 partnered with North Alabama schools to bring students to
31 its STEM classrooms; during 2023, the museum's total number
32 of visitors was 85,626 which includes 16,243 students from
33 72 cities and 19 Alabama counties; those numbers increased
34 to 86,725, with 18,764 of those being students from 90
35 cities and 21 Alabama counties; the program is so successful
36 and enriching for the students that the museum has plans to
37 raise funds to expand its STEM program; now therefore,

38 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
39 ALABAMA, That the Cook Museum of Natural History is highly
40 commended for bringing essential learning experiences to the
41 residents and students of North Alabama and designated to
42 serve as the North Alabama STEM Center as a partner in
43 education with North Alabama schools.