

HJR154 ENROLLED



1 HJR154
2 BYXMLQ4-2
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-Feb-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE W. BARBER, JR.

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6 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep respect
7 that we record the passing of George W. Barber, Jr. of
8 Birmingham, Alabama, on February 15, 2026, at the age of 85;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, an extraordinary citizen of this state,
11 George Barber was a lifelong entrepreneur whose keen
12 business acumen and competitive drive were equaled only by
13 his generosity of spirit and steadfast humility; he
14 consistently chose to place others in the spotlight rather
15 than himself, and he will be remembered for his generous
16 spirit and enduring influence on all who were privileged to
17 know him; he leaves behind a world made better by his
18 presence and a legacy that will long endure the passage of
19 time; and

20 WHEREAS, George Barber was born on September 11,
21 1940, to George W. Barber and Julia W. Barber; after
22 graduating from Auburn University, where he was a member of
23 Sigma Alpha Epsilon, he enlisted in the Alabama Air National
24 Guard and faithfully served six years with the 117th
25 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing; and

26 WHEREAS, his business leadership was rooted in a
27 century of family tradition; born into his family's dairy
28 enterprise, he began learning the business from the driver's



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29 seat of a milk truck at eight years of age; this early
30 immersion developed into a comprehensive mastery of the
31 industry and a deep respect for the employees and customers
32 who sustained it; and

33 WHEREAS, at the age of 29, he assumed leadership of
34 the family business and guided its continued growth,
35 expanding it into a leading dairy provider throughout the
36 Southeast; under his direction, the company flourished and
37 strengthened its reputation for quality, integrity, and
38 community investment; and

39 WHEREAS, George Barber's entrepreneurial vision
40 extended well beyond the dairy industry; his career included
41 significant acquisitions, among them the Dairy Queen
42 franchise rights for Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, as
43 well as the historic Birmingham Realty Company, successor to
44 the Elyton Land Company, founder of the City of Birmingham;
45 today, Barber Companies stands as a robust operating
46 platform managing a premier portfolio of approximately 300
47 commercial properties across Alabama, in addition to the
48 renowned Barber Marina; and

49 WHEREAS, his legendary competitive drive was first
50 displayed on the racetrack, where he earned 63 victories on
51 the Southeastern sports car circuit and was widely regarded
52 as one of the leading drivers of his era; even in victory,
53 he remained measured and gracious, embodying the quiet
54 discipline that defined his character; and

55 WHEREAS, motorsports remained a defining passion
56 throughout his life; after the sale of Barber Dairies in



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57 1998 and the consolidation of his business interests, he
58 devoted himself more fully to a philanthropic vision
59 inspired by that passion; what began as a personal interest
60 evolved into the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, a
61 nonprofit institution that houses the world's largest
62 collection of motorcycles and Lotus race cars and stands as
63 a testament to excellence in preservation, engineering, and
64 education; and

65 WHEREAS, situated on an 880-acre campus, the
66 230,000-square-foot museum is an architectural marvel and a
67 global center for restoration, preservation, design, and
68 learning, inspiring more than 4,000 students annually and
69 welcoming visitors from around the world; and

70 WHEREAS, often described as the "Augusta National of
71 Racing," Barber Motorsports Park was born of his vision to
72 create "a botanical garden with a racetrack in it," uniting
73 natural beauty with technical precision; together, the park
74 and museum represent the largest single philanthropic
75 project undertaken by an individual in Alabama history and
76 reflect his desire to create something enduring for the
77 benefit of others; and

78 WHEREAS, George Barber's impact upon education and
79 environmental conservation was profound; he funded more than
80 500 full-tuition college scholarships, opening doors of
81 opportunity for generations of students; he cultivated a
82 culture of loyalty and mutual care within his companies and
83 quietly extended support to employees and friends in times
84 of hardship, often without public recognition; and



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85 WHEREAS, he was a generous benefactor of the Boy
86 Scouts of America and Discovery Place, now the McWane
87 Science Center; a dedicated conservationist, he founded the
88 Birmingham chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association
89 and was honored as Alabama Conservationist of the Year; his
90 support helped advance passage of Alabama's Forever Wild
91 Act, and his long service on the Forever Wild Trust board,
92 together with his support of the Nature Conservancy,
93 reflected a lifelong commitment to preserving Alabama's
94 natural heritage for future generations; and

95 WHEREAS, George Barber was preceded in death by his
96 parents; sisters, Lynne L. Woehle and Joah L. Hicks; and
97 brother, Fritz Ludington; he is survived by seven nieces and
98 a nephew; and

99 WHEREAS, though he never married, his life was
100 defined by a deep and abiding sense of kinship; he regarded
101 his employees as family, took a genuine interest in their
102 lives, and built lasting bonds grounded in respect and
103 generosity; his closest friends and confidantes formed a
104 wider family of the heart who will forever cherish his
105 loyalty, wisdom, and steady presence; now therefore,

106 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
107 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of George W.
108 Barber, Jr. is recorded with deep sadness and solemn
109 respect, and we celebrate a life distinguished by
110 enterprise, vision, integrity, and selfless generosity; this
111 resolution is offered in highest tribute, together with



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112 heartfelt sympathy to his friends and family, whose loss is
113 shared across this state.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 26-Feb-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

05-Mar-26

Adopted