

HJR176 INTRODUCED



1 HJR176
2 ZQHECKK-1
3 By Representatives Clouse, Paramore, Rehm, Paschal
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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HJR___ COMMENDING THE INAUGURAL OZARK COLLARD GREEN
FESTIVAL.

WHEREAS, the Ozark Collard Green Festival, founded by
Ms. Belinda Thomas, was established to celebrate the
cultural significance of collard greens through food,
farming, art, wellness, and education, and to serve as a
growing platform that uplifts local farmers, artists, and
food innovators; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's agricultural and cultural
identities are deeply rooted in the traditions of greens and
root vegetables, and few foods represent the intersection of
health, heritage, and community as meaningfully as collard
greens; and

WHEREAS, rich in vitamins and essential nutrients,
collard greens are both a staple of Southern cuisine and a
symbol of nourishment, resilience, and shared history across
generations; and

WHEREAS, from family kitchens and church gatherings
to community celebrations and holiday tables, collard greens
with potlikker have long served as a unifying cultural
experience for Alabamians, and the tradition of dipping
cornbread into potlikker reflects the warmth, hospitality,
and resourcefulness that define our state; and

WHEREAS, the Ozark Collard Green Festival recognizes



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29 Alabama's significant role in collard green production and
30 honors the farmers, cooks, artisans, and community leaders
31 who sustain these traditions; and

32 WHEREAS, just as the peanut has come to symbolize
33 Alabama's agricultural heritage, collard greens represent a
34 living tradition that connects our past, present, and
35 future; and

36 WHEREAS, this festival celebrates not only a beloved
37 food, but also the people, stories, and communities whose
38 lives and histories are woven into Alabama's culinary and
39 agricultural legacy; now therefore,

40 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
41 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we commend the inaugural
42 Ozark Collard Green Festival, held November 15, 2025, and
43 extend our appreciation to its founder, organizers,
44 participants, and supporters for their efforts to preserve
45 and promote Alabama's rich agricultural and cultural
46 traditions.