

# HJR179 ENROLLED



1 HJR179  
2 6YB9M1Z-2  
3 By Representatives Brown, Marques, Stringer, Rehm, Smith,  
4 Allbright, Pringle, Brinyark, Shirey  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AUTHORIZE A  
5 RELIABILITY REPORT ON MARINE HIGHWAY 65 IN THE WATER  
6 RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026.

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8 WHEREAS, Marine Highway 65 (M-65), which includes the  
9 Tennessee River, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, the  
10 Tombigbee River, the Black Warrior River, and the Mobile  
11 River system, is a vital component of the national inland  
12 waterway transportation network and serves as a critical  
13 economic corridor for the State of Alabama and the  
14 southeastern United States; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Maritime Administration  
16 designated Marine Highway 65 as part of the Marine Highway  
17 Program, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development  
18 Authority serves as the nonfederal sponsor for M-65; and

19 WHEREAS, the efficient and reliable operation of  
20 locks and dams along Marine Highway 65 is essential to the  
21 uninterrupted movement of commercial navigation, energy  
22 resources, agricultural commodities, and manufactured goods  
23 that support employment, industry, and economic growth  
24 within Alabama and the region; and

25 WHEREAS, recent incidents and ongoing infrastructure  
26 concerns, including lock failures and operational  
27 disruptions at the Demopolis Lock, the Holt Lock, and the  
28 Wilson Lock, demonstrate the vulnerability of aging



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29 navigation infrastructure and the potential for significant  
30 economic harm resulting from unexpected closures and reduced  
31 reliability; and

32 WHEREAS, additional deficiencies in navigation  
33 infrastructure along the Marine Highway 65 corridor present  
34 risks to the system's reliability, supply chain efficiency,  
35 and national economic security; and

36 WHEREAS, a comprehensive reliability report  
37 evaluating the condition, performance history, and risk  
38 profile of locks and related navigation infrastructure along  
39 Marine Highway 65 would provide essential information to  
40 guide investment decisions, maintenance priorities, and  
41 long-term planning; and

42 WHEREAS, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development  
43 Authority, of which the State of Alabama is a founding  
44 member as part of a four-state compact with Kentucky,  
45 Mississippi, and Tennessee and which was ratified by the  
46 Congress of the United States, has requested that Congress  
47 authorize this reliability report in the Water Resources  
48 Development Act of 2026; and

49 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has a substantial  
50 interest in ensuring the long-term reliability, safety, and  
51 economic viability of Marine Highway 65; now therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
53 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Senate and the  
54 Alabama House of Representatives respectfully urge the  
55 Congress of the United States to include in the Water  
56 Resources Development Act of 2026 authorization for the



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57 United States Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a  
58 comprehensive reliability report on Marine Highway 65,  
59 including, but not limited to, documented lock failures at  
60 the Demopolis Lock, the Holt Lock, and the Wilson Lock, and  
61 an assessment of other infrastructure deficiencies that  
62 could negatively impact navigation along the corridor.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of  
64 Alabama supports the request of the Tennessee-Tombigbee  
65 Waterway Development Authority and encourages prompt federal  
66 action to ensure the continued reliability and resilience of  
67 Marine Highway 65 as a matter of state, regional, and  
68 national importance.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
70 resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the  
71 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of  
72 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate,  
73 the members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, and the  
74 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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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

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**05-Mar-26**

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Adopted