

HJR179 INTRODUCED



1 HJR179
2 6YB9M1Z-1
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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HJR___ URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AUTHORIZE
A RELIABILITY REPORT ON MARINE HIGHWAY 65 IN THE WATER
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, recent incidents and ongoing infrastructure
concerns, including lock failures and operational
disruptions at the Demopolis Lock, the Holt Lock, and the
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.