

HJR252 ENROLLED



1 HJR252
2 ARBVT7Q-2
3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Jones, Bracy
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 CELEBRATING THE COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL BANK'S 50 YEARS OF
4 SERVICE TO THE MOBILE COMMUNITY.

5

6 WHEREAS, with sincere respect and great appreciation,
7 we celebrate the Commonwealth National Bank's 50 years of
8 service to the Mobile community; and

9 WHEREAS, in February 2026, Commonwealth National Bank
10 marked a historic milestone; Commonwealth's story is one of
11 vision, perseverance, community ownership, and an unwavering
12 belief that financial inclusion and access to capital is
13 fundamental to economic mobility and generational wealth;
14 from its earliest days, Commonwealth was a bank created by
15 the people, for the people; and

16 WHEREAS, Commonwealth National Bank was founded
17 during a time when discriminatory lending practices excluded
18 Black families, small businesses, and low to moderate-income
19 communities from access to credit; the idea for the bank
20 came from a conversation among community leaders who
21 suggested organizing a bank that would truly serve the
22 people of Mobile; and

23 WHEREAS, after years of planning, organizing, and
24 community dedication, Commonwealth received its national
25 charter on February 19, 1976; the bank was originally known
26 as The People's Bank, a name that reflected its original
27 purpose and philosophy; and

28 WHEREAS, the bank first operated out of the Franklin



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29 Building on Davis Avenue before relocating to St. Stephens
30 Road, where Commonwealth's main branch proudly stands today;
31 what has remained consistent is the belief that unity,
32 shared ownership, and community trust can build something
33 lasting; and

34 WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, Commonwealth
35 National Bank has loaned more than \$500 million directly to
36 the Mobile community; that capital has supported families,
37 first-time homeowners, small businesses, nonprofits, and
38 community-serving organizations, often when traditional
39 financial institutions would not; and

40 WHEREAS, today, Commonwealth is one of only 14
41 Black-owned and operated banks in the United States, one of
42 just four nationally chartered Black-owned banks, Mobile's
43 only hometown national bank, and a federally certified
44 Community Development Financial Institution; Patrick Cooper,
45 Chair and majority shareholder, is the son of original
46 director J. Gary Cooper, carrying forward the same
47 commitment to community that defined the bank's beginnings;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, those who were instrumental to the early
50 success of Commonwealth National Bank include founding Chair
51 George Langham, James Buskey, Wiley Butler, J. Gary Cooper,
52 Gerald Ellis, William Franklin, Sr., Betty Jordan, John
53 Langham, Eddie Lawson, Eugene Moseley, William Owen, William
54 Powell, Timothy Russell, Sr., Helen Sigler, Shafter Summers,
55 Willie Threadgill, Fred Torrance, and Ocie Wheat; and

56 WHEREAS, under the steady leadership of Commonwealth



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57 President and CEO Sidney King, the bank celebrates its
58 golden anniversary with a focus on the future; today's
59 Commonwealth has two growing branches and combines its
60 historic mission with modern banking tools; now therefore,

61 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
62 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor Commonwealth's
63 founders, its original directors, officers, and early staff
64 who laid the foundation for a legacy that continues to this
65 day, and we commend Commonwealth's current leadership for
66 continuing to invest locally, empower families, support
67 entrepreneurs, and strengthen the fabric of Mobile's
68 communities.

