

HJR277 ENROLLED



1 HJR277
2 ARKD9S7-2
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-Mar-26



HJR277 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 COMMENDING DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE ON
4 ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY.

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6 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, Drake
7 State Community and Technical College (Drake State) is
8 highly commended for providing accessible, high-quality
9 education to students in North Alabama for 65 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Drake State was established in 1961 in
11 Huntsville, Alabama, with 27 students enrolled in four
12 technical programs designed to meet regional workforce
13 needs; originally named Huntsville State Vocational
14 Technical School, the institution was renamed in 1966 to
15 honor Joseph Fanning Drake, a distinguished educational
16 leader and long-time President of Alabama Agricultural and
17 Mechanical University; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1973, Drake State achieved technical
19 college status and began awarding the Associate in Applied
20 Technology degree; in 2013, the institution became J.F.
21 Drake State Community and Technical College, uniquely
22 combining comprehensive community college academic transfer
23 programs with advanced technical and workforce training; and

24 WHEREAS, for 65 years, Drake State has served as a
25 critical workforce development partner for Huntsville and
26 North Alabama; the college offers Associate in Applied
27 Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science
28 degrees, as well as short-term certificates and



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29 industry-recognized credentials aligned with high-demand
30 fields such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, health
31 care, and information technology; and

32 WHEREAS, Drake State has demonstrated leadership in
33 workforce innovation, including early designation as a
34 Microsoft Authorized Academic Training partner and serving
35 as an EPA HVAC certification test site; the College
36 participates in employer-driven training initiatives such as
37 the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME)
38 program and maintains strong partnerships with regional
39 industry leaders; and

40 WHEREAS, the institution has expanded its training
41 capacity through investments in modern facilities, including
42 the Leidos Advanced Training Complex, supporting aerospace
43 and advanced manufacturing education aligned with
44 Huntsville's economic growth; and

45 WHEREAS, Drake State has also secured competitive
46 federal and workforce grants, including becoming the first
47 institution in Alabama to receive a U.S. Department of Labor
48 Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant; additional
49 STEM-focused funding has strengthened student pathways into
50 science and technology careers; and

51 WHEREAS, as Drake State celebrates its 65th
52 Anniversary during the week of April 27, the milestone
53 represents six and a half decades of educational access,
54 workforce excellence, and sustained contributions to the
55 economic vitality of the City of Huntsville and the State of
56 Alabama; now therefore,



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
58 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That since its founding in 1961,
59 Drake State has served as an educational cornerstone of
60 higher learning, providing accessible, high-quality
61 education to students in Northern Alabama and is highly
62 commended for its many milestones along the way and for the
63 enduring contributions to the State of Alabama and its
64 traditions of excellence in education.



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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 01-Apr-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

09-Apr-26

Adopted