

**HJR279 ENROLLED**



1 HJR279

2 6YT6TZZ-2

3 By Representatives Fidler, Brown, Marques, Treadaway,  
4 Holk-Jones, Givens, Stringer, Easterbrook, Baker, Simpson,  
5 Shirey, Clarke, Bracy, Moore (P), Starnes, Harrison, Bolton,  
6 Lamb, Crawford, Rehm, Wilcox, Underwood, Drummond

7 RFD: Rules

8 First Read: 19-Mar-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 ENCOURAGING THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO STUDY NAVIGATIONAL AIDS

4 WITHIN THE WATERWAYS OF MOBILE BAY AND SURROUNDING WATERS.

5

6 WHEREAS, the waters of Baldwin County between Mobile  
7 Bay, Weeks Bay, and on to the Magnolia River are frequently  
8 traveled by recreational and commercial vessels; and

9 WHEREAS, navigational aids such as buoys and markers  
10 assist boaters in identifying safe channels, avoiding  
11 hazards, and navigating safely; and

12 WHEREAS, boaters traveling from Mobile Bay through  
13 Weeks Bay to the Magnolia River have reported that  
14 navigational aids in portions of these waters, particularly  
15 from the federally maintained navigation aids in Mobile Bay  
16 to the Magnolia River entrance channel, are sparse or  
17 nonexistent, creating potential safety concerns; and

18 WHEREAS, Baldwin County's coastal waterways support  
19 significant recreational boating activity and tourism,  
20 making safe navigation important for the protection of life,  
21 property, and local economic activity; and

22 WHEREAS, responsibility for marine patrol enforcement  
23 in Alabama waters was transferred in 2015 from the Marine  
24 Patrol Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation  
25 and Natural Resources to the Marine Patrol Division of the  
26 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, and Alabama  
27 regulations governing public waters have historically  
28 referenced the authority of the Director of the Marine



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29 Patrol Division to adopt rules relating to boating safety  
30 and regulatory markers on the waters of the state; and

31 WHEREAS, the safe navigation of Alabama's coastal  
32 waterways is important to the protection of life and  
33 property and to the continued enjoyment and responsible use  
34 of these waters by residents and visitors alike; and

35 WHEREAS, some coastal states, including Florida and  
36 Texas, have utilized state-administered waterway marker  
37 programs in certain areas to complement federal navigation  
38 aids in waters heavily used by recreational boaters; now  
39 therefore,

40 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
41 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the  
42 potential public safety concern associated with the lack of  
43 navigational aids in the waters between Mobile Bay, Weeks  
44 Bay, and on to the Magnolia River.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the  
46 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, in coordination with  
47 the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural  
48 Resources, the United States Coast Guard, the State  
49 Department of Transportation, and other appropriate local or  
50 regional authorities, is requested to examine navigational  
51 aids within these waterways and determine which governmental  
52 entity is responsible for their placement and maintenance.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That within six months of the  
54 adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Alabama  
55 State Law Enforcement Agency shall provide a written report  
56 to the Legislature identifying the following:



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57           (1) The governmental entity responsible for the  
58 placement and maintenance of navigational aids between  
59 Mobile Bay, Weeks Bay, and the Magnolia River.

60           (2) Any navigational safety concerns identified in  
61 the area.

62           (3) Any recommendations that may assist in promoting  
63 boating safety and improved navigation within these waters,  
64 including considerations relating to the adoption of boating  
65 safety measures or regulatory markers.

66           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the findings shall be  
67 transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
68 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chair of the  
69 Senate, the Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Safety  
70 Committee, the Chair of the House Ports, Waterways, and  
71 Intermodal Transit Committee, and the State Representative  
72 for House District 94.



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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 01-Apr-26.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**09-Apr-26**

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Adopted