

## HJR279 INTRODUCED



1 HJR279

2 6YT6TZZ-1

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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HJR\_\_\_ ENCOURAGING THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO STUDY  
NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WITHIN THE WATERWAYS OF MOBILE BAY AND  
SURROUNDING WATERS.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, responsibility for marine patrol enforcement in Alabama waters was transferred in 2015 from the Marine Patrol Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to the Marine Patrol Division of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, and Alabama



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29 regulations governing public waters have historically  
30 referenced the authority of the Director of the Marine  
31 Patrol Division to adopt rules relating to boating safety  
32 and regulatory markers on the waters of the state; and

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

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

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

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

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That within six months of the  
56 adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Alabama



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57 State Law Enforcement Agency shall provide a written report  
58 to the Legislature identifying the following:

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

62 (2) Any navigational safety concerns identified in  
63 the area.

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

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