

HJR344 INTRODUCED



1 HJR344

2 W1D2BEE-1

3 By Representatives Robbins, Allbright, Baker, Barnes, Bedsole,
4 Blackshear, Bolton, Boyd, Bracy, Brinyark, Brown, Butler,
5 Carns, Chestnut, Clarke, Clouse, Collins, Colvin, Crawford,
6 Crow, Daniels, Datcher, Drummond, DuBose, Easterbrook, Ellis,
7 England, Ensler, Estes, Faulkner, Fidler, Fincher, Forte,
8 Garrett, Gidley, Givan, Givens, Gray, Hall, Hammett, Harrison,
9 Hassell, Hendrix, Hill, Holk-Jones, Hollis, Hulsey, Hurst,
10 Ingram, Jackson, Jones, Kiel, Kirkland, Lamb, Lands, Lawrence,
11 Ledbetter, Lee, Lipscomb, Lomax, Lovvorn, Marques, McCampbell,
12 McClammy, Mooney, Moore (M), Moore (P), Morris, Myrex, Nelson,
13 Oliver, Paramore, Paschal, Pettus, Pringle, Rafferty, Rehm,
14 Reynolds, Rigsby, Robertson, Ross, Sellers, Sells, Shaver,
15 Shaw, Shirey, Simpson, Smith, Sorrells, Stadthagen,
16 Standridge, Starnes, Stringer, Stubbs, Tillman, Travis,
17 Treadaway, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Whitt, Whorton,
18 Wilcox, Wood (R), Yarbrough

19 RFD:

20 First Read: 07-Apr-26



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HJR___ COMMENDING CHRIS RICHARDS AND RECOGNIZING JUNE 12,
2026, AS CHRIS RICHARDS DAY IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, Chris Richards, the 2025 United States Soccer Male Player of the Year, is one of two Alabamians positioned to be on the U.S. roster for this summer's World Cup and is also projected to be the first team captain from Alabama; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hoover, Chris Richards played in 12 matches for the United States Men's National Team, totaling 1,004 minutes, which is the most of his international career; he scored two goals, including one in the 2025 Concacaf Gold Cup final, in which Mexico prevailed 2-1; he was also named to the tournament's Best XI; and

WHEREAS, Chris Richards has enjoyed similar success at the club level, making 32 appearances in all competitions, and helping his South London team Crystal Palace win the 2025 Football Association Challenge Cup with a 1-0 win against Manchester City, as well as the 2025 Community Shield via a penalty shootout against Liverpool; those were the first major trophies won by Crystal Palace in its 120-year history; and

WHEREAS, in just a few short years, Chris Richards has managed to play for teams in three different countries; the 26-year-old was cut from a trial at FC Dallas, then



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29 headed to a youth club in Houston, Texas; after that, he
30 went to Bayern Munich, where he found himself relegated to
31 the reserve team or sent on two separate loans to TSG 1899
32 Hoffenheim in Sinsheim, Germany; he was not even an
33 immediate starter at Crystal Palace; his first position at
34 the London team was as a defensive midfielder rather than
35 his preferred center back role; however, the culmination of
36 these experiences have perfectly prepared him to be the most
37 important defender for the U.S., and on the biggest sports
38 stage in the world; and

39 WHEREAS, Chris Richards has been instrumental in the
40 construction of a new soccer field in front of the historic
41 Powell Avenue steam plant in Birmingham's Railroad Park and
42 UAB Hospital area; he partnered with Fédération
43 Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), soccer's
44 global governing body, to bring the small-sided field to
45 downtown Birmingham as part of FIFA's "soccer forward"
46 campaign; and

47 WHEREAS, Chris Richards even came home to Alabama for
48 the field's dedication, calling it "an investment in the
49 future of the city" because its historic downtown location
50 allows people from every community, every part of
51 Birmingham, to come and play on it; and

52 WHEREAS, Alabama can be proud of its native son, a
53 humble man who leads with quiet confidence and tenacity;
54 Chris Richards plays hard and will lead Team USA further in
55 the knockout round than any American team has ever advanced;
56 now therefore,



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57 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
58 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize Friday, June
59 12, 2026, as Chris Richards Day in Alabama; this date is
60 significant because the U.S. will compete against Paraguay
61 in open group play, and we wish to commemorate this historic
62 event and heartily commend Chris Richards for his
63 significance as a role model with the talent and ability to
64 represent Alabama on an international level.