

HJR71 INTRODUCED



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2 NR1ENJJ-1

3 By Representatives Clarke, Drummond, Jones, Shirey, Stringer,
4 Baker, Wilcox, Bracy, Brown, Pringle, Simpson, Givens,
5 Holk-Jones, Fidler, Jackson

6 RFD: Rules

7 First Read: 29-Jan-26



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4 HJR____ COMMENDING ROBERTA SWANN ON HER RETIREMENT AS
5 DIRECTOR OF THE MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with great pride and deep appreciation
8 that we recognize individuals who have devoted their lives
9 to public service and environmental stewardship, improving
10 the quality of life for the people and natural resources of
11 Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Roberta Swann has served the Mobile Bay
13 National Estuary Program since 2004, first as Deputy
14 Director, and since 2009, as Director, providing more than
15 two decades of dedicated leadership and guidance through a
16 period of historic growth and impact; and

17 WHEREAS, throughout her tenure, Roberta Swann has
18 demonstrated exceptional vision, determination, and
19 commitment in advancing a community-based approach to
20 watershed management that significantly improved and
21 protected Alabama's coastal and estuarine resources; and

22 WHEREAS, under her leadership, more than \$100 million
23 in federal, state, local, and private funding was invested
24 in Alabama's estuaries and coastal watersheds, supporting
25 large-scale restoration, conservation, and resilience
initiatives; and

27 WHEREAS, Roberta Swann has been widely recognized for
28 her ability to convene and coordinate diverse stakeholders



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29 from government, industry, academia, nonprofit
30 organizations, and local communities, providing a meaningful
31 and inclusive voice in environmental decision-making; and

32 WHEREAS, her leadership resulted in the development
33 and implementation of comprehensive watershed management
34 plans covering all intertidal watersheds in Mobile and
35 Baldwin Counties, as well as the completion of multiple
36 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans; and

37 WHEREAS, during her tenure, the Mobile Bay National
38 Estuary Program completed transformational restoration
39 projects that restored streams, wetlands, marshes, and
40 shorelines; improved water quality; protected ecologically
41 sensitive lands; and strengthened Alabama's coastal
42 resilience; and

43 WHEREAS, Roberta Swann played a central role in
44 guiding the unanimous approval of the program's third
45 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the
46 publication of the State of Alabama's Estuaries and Coasts
47 Report, providing a clear roadmap for protecting Alabama's
48 coastal way of life for the next decade; and

49 WHEREAS, her distinguished career has been recognized
50 through numerous honors, including the Alabama Wildlife
51 Federation Conservationist of the Year Award, a Certificate
52 of Recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
53 for 25 years of service, and the Gulf Coast Marine
54 Environmental Excellence Award; and

55 WHEREAS, Roberta Swann retired from her position as
56 Director of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

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57 effective January 31, 2026; she leaves a lasting legacy of
58 collaboration, environmental stewardship, and public service
59 that has earned the respect and gratitude of community
60 leaders, colleagues, and citizens throughout coastal
61 Alabama; now therefore,

62 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
63 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Roberta
64 Swann for her exemplary service as Director of the Mobile
65 Bay National Estuary Program and to the State of Alabama,
66 and we extend heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of
67 her retirement, along with best wishes for continued health,
68 happiness, and fulfillment in the years to come.