

HR254 INTRODUCED



1 HR254
2 TBTQV19-1
3 By Representatives Hall, Daniels, Moore (P), Rigsby, Whitt,
4 Reynolds, Lands
5 RFD:
6 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, for 65 years, Drake State has served as a critical workforce development partner for Huntsville and North Alabama; the college offers Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science



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

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

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

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

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



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57 Alabama; now therefore,

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