

**SJR115 ENROLLED**



1 SJR115

2 ZQLEPKR-2

3 By Senators Chambliss, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,  
4 Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chesteen, Coleman, Coleman-Madison,  
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,  
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,  
7 Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods

9 RFD: Rules

10 First Read: 07-Apr-26



## SJR115 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR\_\_\_ COMMENDING JOHN R. COOPER FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO  
5 THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

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7 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper has served with distinction  
8 as Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation,  
9 providing stable and effective leadership for a period  
10 unmatched in Alabama's history; and

11 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper is the Department's  
12 longest-serving Transportation Director in total and in  
13 consecutive years; and

14 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper began his tenure with the  
15 Department in January 2011; and

16 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper was honored in February 2026  
17 by the American Association of State Highway and  
18 Transportation Officials as the longest currently tenured  
19 chief executive officer of any state transportation  
20 department in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, during the first 100 years of the Alabama  
22 Department of Transportation, the average consecutive tenure  
23 of a director was just over three years, making the  
24 continuity provided by John R. Cooper's service exceptional  
25 and historically significant; and

26 WHEREAS, under Governor Robert Bentley, John R.  
27 Cooper guided development of the Alabama Transportation  
28 Improvement and Rehabilitation Program (ATRIP), accelerating



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29 road and bridge improvements statewide; and

30 WHEREAS, upon assuming office in 2017, Governor Kay  
31 Ivey retained John R. Cooper as Transportation Director,  
32 reflecting confidence in his leadership and the value of  
33 continuity; and

34 WHEREAS, John R. Cooper played a central role in the  
35 enactment of the Rebuild Alabama Act to generate new state  
36 revenues for transportation purposes; and

37 WHEREAS, his tenure included significant legislation,  
38 including authorization for Design-Build project delivery,  
39 enactment of legislation related to tolling, and statutory  
40 improvements to the department's administrative operations;  
41 and

42 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Alabama Department  
43 of Transportation delivered major projects, including  
44 improvements to U.S. Highway 280, replacement of the  
45 Interstate 59/20 bridges in downtown Birmingham, widening  
46 the final stretch of U.S. Highway 431 in Eufaula, congestion  
47 relief along Alabama Highway 59 through acquisition of the  
48 Foley Beach Express toll bridge and construction of a new  
49 bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, widening portions of  
50 Interstates 65, 10, and 565, and initiating construction of  
51 the West Alabama Highway; and

52 WHEREAS, his vision, tenacity, and persistence have  
53 helped develop the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, making it  
54 the most thoroughly developed mega-project in the United  
55 States; and

56 WHEREAS, his leadership has helped advance the



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57 Birmingham Northern Beltline through the initial phases of  
58 construction; and

59 WHEREAS, throughout his service, John R. Cooper has  
60 demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, fiscal  
61 responsibility, and the safety and mobility of Alabama's  
62 citizens; now therefore,

63 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
64 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend John R.  
65 Cooper for his exemplary and unprecedented service as  
66 Transportation Director and express the gratitude of the  
67 Legislature and the people of the State of Alabama for his  
68 leadership and dedication.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
70 resolution be provided to John R. Cooper as a formal  
71 expression of the Legislature's respect and esteem.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR115

Senate 07-Apr-26

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

Passed: 08-Apr-26

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By: Senator Chambliss