

SJR37 INTRODUCED



1 SJR37

2 V7RSEVV-1

3 By Senators Barfoot, Hatcher, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Bell,

4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,

5 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hovey,

6 Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price,

7 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,

8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams, Woods

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 10-Feb-26



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SJR___ RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2026 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, we highly honor Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham for being named the 2026 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year by the National Sheriffs' Association; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Cunningham was born in Tacoma, Washington, and moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with his family when he was 12 years old; prior to graduating from Tuscaloosa County High School, he joined the Alabama National Guard in 1984, proudly serving until he retired with 24 years of service; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from the police academy in 1989; within 10 years, he had worked his way up to the Detective Division investigating homicides; he later became a member of the International Homicide Investigators Association; in 1999, Montgomery County Sheriff D.T. Marshall appointed him as Chief Deputy, and he served in that capacity for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, he was sworn in as Montgomery County's first African American sheriff; in this capacity, Sheriff Cunningham heads an agency of more than 400 employees and a \$50.1 million dollar budget that spans a 643 square-mile jurisdiction; for several decades, he has been



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29 among the most visible supporters of community-based
30 policing, youth mentoring programs, and utilizing smartphome
31 and other technology to better serve the community and
32 reduce crime; and

33 WHEREAS, Sheriff Cunningham earned a Bachelor of
34 Science from Troy University and a Master of Science from
35 the University of Phoenix; he has attended numerous schools
36 and seminars since the start of his law enforcement career;
37 he is a 2007 graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy Class
38 231; he serves as the point of contact for Homeland Security
39 for Montgomery County, overseeing funding for the county;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, in September 2015, Sheriff Cunningham
42 graduated from the 108th National Sheriff's Institute in
43 Aurora, Colorado, and two years later he was sworn in as
44 Sergeant of Arms with the Alabama Sheriff's Association; in
45 2019 Sheriff Cunningham was sworn in as Vice President of
46 the Alabama Sheriff's Association; in January 2020 he was
47 sworn in as President, and he served two consecutive terms
48 until 2022; and

49 WHEREAS, Sheriff Cunningham has been appointed to
50 several statewide committees by the Governor and remains
51 involved in the Montgomery community by serving on several
52 nonprofit agencies, some of which include the Kiwanis Club,
53 YMCA, Tri-County Alzheimer's Association, and the Victims of
54 Crime and Leniency; and he is also a member of Omega Psi Phi
55 Fraternity, Incorporated; now therefore,



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56 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
57 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
58 is highly honored and commended on being named the 2026
59 Ferris E. Lucas Sheriff of the Year by the National
60 Sheriffs' Association; and we convey deepest admiration and
61 pride for all he has done to protect and honor the State of
62 Alabama and all of its residents.