

**SJR40 INTRODUCED**



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

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 10-Feb-26



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SJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GARDENDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations are herein proudly presented to Gardendale First Baptist Church on the momentous occasion of its 150th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Gardendale First Baptist Church has survived throughout the years by the commitment of its pastors and members and by the loving grace of God; many generations of members have been encouraged and their faith strengthened through the leadership of this church; it has grown into a beacon of unselfish love and compassion for the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1876, under the leadership of the church's first pastor of record, Elder James Grimes, a group of believers established a permanent place of worship known as Chalybeate Springs Baptist Church, with an initial membership of 27; and

WHEREAS, the congregation moved to Main Street, now the Lighthouse Building, in 1914, and three years later the church changed its name to Gardendale First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, over the ensuing years, successive pastors provided leadership that strengthened and improved the



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29 church family; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1934, Reverend C. B. Phillips became the  
31 church's first full-time pastor, followed by Howard Bryant  
32 in 1961, Lewis Marler in 1970, David Dykes in 1984, and  
33 Steve Gaines in 1991; and

34 WHEREAS, the church has experienced steady growth and  
35 stability, along with improvements and purchases that have  
36 supported its ministries; and

37 WHEREAS, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit,  
38 Dr. Kevin Hamm was installed as pastor in 2006, and under  
39 his leadership the church has grown to a membership of more  
40 than 6,000, drawing members from Jefferson County and the  
41 surrounding areas; and

42 WHEREAS, in 2010, the church moved to its present  
43 location alongside Interstate 65 in Gardendale and has  
44 become known as the "church with the cross," referring to  
45 the 125-foot cross visible from the interstate, which  
46 represents God's love to the hundreds of thousands of people  
47 who pass by each year; and

48 WHEREAS, the church remains committed to four core  
49 values that guide the church's ministry to focus on  
50 fostering a relationship with Christ, community, and  
51 outreach: Worship God, Make Disciples, Love People, and  
52 Share Jesus; and

53 WHEREAS, with the help of its dedicated congregation  
54 and the leadership of its pastors through the years,  
55 Gardendale First Baptist Church has faithfully shared the  
56 Word and love of God, strengthened lives, and brought people



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57 together in fellowship and worship for 150 years; now  
58 therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
60 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Gardendale First Baptist  
61 Church is highly commended and celebrated on its milestone  
62 150th Anniversary, and this resolution is offered to its  
63 pastor and congregation in deepest admiration and  
64 appreciation, along with sincere best wishes for continued  
65 blessings.