

SJR54 INTRODUCED



1 SJR54

2 EJWFKCC-1

3 By Senators Woods, Albritton, Elliott, Kitchens, Williams,
4 Sessions, Melson, Waggoner, Weaver, Allen, Livingston, Figures

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6 RFD:

7 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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4 SJR___ URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AUTHORIZE
5 A RELIABILITY REPORT ON MARINE HIGHWAY 65 IN THE WATER
6 RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2026.
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8 WHEREAS, Marine Highway 65 (M-65), which includes the
9 Tennessee River, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, the
10 Tombigbee River, the Black Warrior River, and the Mobile
11 River system, is a vital component of the national inland
12 waterway transportation network and serves as a critical
13 economic corridor for the State of Alabama and the
14 southeastern United States; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Maritime Administration
16 designated Marine Highway 65 as part of the Marine Highway
17 Program, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development
18 Authority serves as the nonfederal sponsor for M-65; and

19 WHEREAS, the efficient and reliable operation of
20 locks and dams along Marine Highway 65 is essential to the
21 uninterrupted movement of commercial navigation, energy
22 resources, agricultural commodities, and manufactured goods
23 that support employment, industry, and economic growth
24 within Alabama and the region; and

25 WHEREAS, recent incidents and ongoing infrastructure
26 concerns, including lock failures and operational
27 disruptions at the Demopolis Lock, the Holt Lock, and the
28 Wilson Lock, demonstrate the vulnerability of aging



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navigation infrastructure and the potential for significant economic harm resulting from unexpected closures and reduced reliability; and

WHEREAS, additional deficiencies in navigation infrastructure along the Marine Highway 65 corridor present risks to the system's reliability, supply chain efficiency, and national economic security; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive reliability report evaluating the condition, performance history, and risk profile of locks and related navigation infrastructure along Marine Highway 65 would provide essential information to guide investment decisions, maintenance priorities, and long-term planning; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, of which the State of Alabama is a founding member as part of a four-state compact with Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee and which was ratified by the Congress of the United States, has requested that Congress authorize this reliability report in the Water Resources Development Act of 2026; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has a substantial interest in ensuring the long-term reliability, safety, and economic viability of Marine Highway 65; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Senate and the Alabama House of Representatives respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to include in the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 authorization for the



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57 United States Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a
58 comprehensive reliability report on Marine Highway 65,
59 including, but not limited to, documented lock failures at
60 the Demopolis Lock, the Holt Lock, and the Wilson Lock, and
61 an assessment of other infrastructure deficiencies that
62 could negatively impact navigation along the corridor.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of
64 Alabama supports the request of the Tennessee-Tombigbee
65 Waterway Development Authority and encourages prompt federal
66 action to ensure the continued reliability and resilience of
67 Marine Highway 65 as a matter of state, regional, and
68 national importance.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
70 resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the
71 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of
72 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate,
73 the members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, and the
74 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.