

1 SJR9  
2 172529-1  
3 By Senators Ward, Allen, Orr, Albritton, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,  
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders,  
7 Sanford, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman,  
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 03-FEB-16

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8 ENCOURAGING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT  
9 COMMEMORATING THE BILL OF RIGHTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.  
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11 WHEREAS, the lasting promises of our great nation,  
12 those of freedom from oppression and the preservation of  
13 individual liberty, are fundamental themes of the very  
14 document upon which our system of government was founded; and

15 WHEREAS, the central importance of the principles  
16 outlined in the United States Constitution once prompted  
17 President Harry Truman to describe it as "a living force";  
18 similarly, President Ronald Reagan evoked the power of the  
19 individual liberties safeguarded by the constitution,  
20 referring to "a government which empowers its people" as  
21 "mankind's best defense against tyranny," and nowhere are  
22 these constitutional guarantees regarding the rights of the  
23 individual articulated more clearly than in the first 10  
24 amendments - the aptly named Bill of Rights; and

25 WHEREAS, while the Capitol grounds and other  
26 properties and sites throughout the state display statues,  
27 memorials, and commemorations of people, ideals, and events

1 that demonstrate our country's abiding dedication to the  
2 values established by the Bill of Rights, there is no specific  
3 tribute to the Bill of Rights; and

4 WHEREAS, the general laws of the state authorize the  
5 Alabama Historical Commission to provide for the placement and  
6 acquisition of historical sites and monuments, and the  
7 Department of Finance Division of Construction Management to  
8 acquire property and structures in the name of the State of  
9 Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, we find that a commemorative structure to  
11 honor the Bill of Rights would be a worthy addition to the  
12 recognition and memorialization of historic sites in this  
13 state; and we support the inclusion of a monument that will  
14 convey to visitors a sense of history and the faith in human  
15 liberty symbolized by the Bill of Rights; now, therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby encourage the  
18 Alabama Historical Commission and the Department of Finance  
19 Division of Construction Management, subject to state law and  
20 rules of the commission and the division, to approve and  
21 permit the construction or acquisition of a monument on state  
22 property to specifically commemorate the Bill of Rights of the  
23 United States Constitution.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no public funds be used  
25 for the design and construction of the monument.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That official copies of this  
27 resolution be provided to the executive director of the

1 Alabama Historical Commission and the Director of Construction  
2 of the Division of Construction Management.