

1 SJR10
2 187997-1
3 By Senators Sanford, Orr, Holtzclaw, Livingston and Scofield
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

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8 JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HUNTSVILLE
9 AS THE FOUNDING CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA.
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11 WHEREAS, incorporated in the fertile Tennessee
12 Valley on December 9, 1811, Huntsville quickly became the
13 largest settlement in north Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1818, Alabama's territorial Legislature,
15 meeting in St. Stephens, chose Huntsville as the temporary
16 location of the state capital, until such time as new
17 facilities were completed in Cahawba; and

18 WHEREAS, on March 2, 1819, the Congress of the
19 United States passed an enabling act authorizing the citizens
20 of the Alabama Territory to elect delegates to meet in
21 Huntsville on July 5, 1819, to draft a constitution and form a
22 state government; and

23 WHEREAS, adopted on August 2, 1819, Alabama's first
24 constitution provided for separation of powers akin to those
25 in the Federal Constitution, set a timetable for the
26 transition to statehood, and established, for the era, a
27 liberal provision for universal white male suffrage; and

1 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1819, state legislators and
2 William Wyatt Bibb, the first Governor of the State of
3 Alabama, were elected and seated in Huntsville; and

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature adjourned its session on
5 December 17, 1819, unaware that President James Monroe, who
6 had visited Huntsville earlier that year, had signed the act
7 admitting Alabama as the nation's twenty-second state three
8 days earlier, on December 14, 1819; and

9 WHEREAS, since 1819, Huntsville has continued its
10 astounding growth and rich cultural history and is a world
11 leader in genomic and space exploration technology; and

12 WHEREAS, Alabama is currently engaged in a
13 commemoration of the Bicentennial Statehood, a three-year
14 celebration of the people, places, and events that form our
15 rich history; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby recognize
18 Huntsville as the founding capital of the State of Alabama.