

1 SJR92
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3 By Senator Smitherman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-MAR-18

1 SJR92

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4 ENROLLED, SJR92,

5 RECOGNIZING THE ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS ON THE
6 OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

7
8 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts is
9 celebrating its 50th Anniversary of serving the great State of
10 Alabama and educating its students with distinction; and

11 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts traces its
12 humble beginnings to Governor Lurleen Wallace's decision to
13 provide special funding to the community arts leaders in
14 Birmingham to support after-school instructional art programs
15 during the 1967-1968 school year; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative J.T. "Jabo" Waggoner was
17 instrumental in supporting this novel approach to fine arts
18 education and championed sponsorship and passage of
19 legislation that transitioned the successful after-school
20 program to a full-time school thus establishing the Alabama
21 School of Fine Arts in 1972; and

22 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts provides a
23 special opportunity for talented and passionate students in
24 grades 7 through 12 from across the state to immerse
25 themselves in a unique educational experience in six

1 speciality disciplines: Creative Writing, Dance, Mathematics,
2 Science, Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts; and

3 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, widely
4 referred to as ASFA, is Alabama's only state public middle and
5 high school blending fine arts with math and science
6 education; and

7 WHEREAS, ASFA equips students with intensive
8 professional inter-discipline study while also providing the
9 core academic courses necessary to earn an Alabama high school
10 diploma; and

11 WHEREAS, ASFA's 2017 class of 70 seniors earned an
12 average ACT score of 26.8, were awarded \$13 million in merit
13 scholarships averaging almost \$200,000 each, and were accepted
14 at 124 colleges, universities, art schools, and
15 conservatories; and

16 WHEREAS, these accomplishments are generally
17 representative of each Alabama School of Fine Arts graduating
18 class; and

19 WHEREAS, ASFA students routinely achieve and are
20 recognized as Presidential Scholars, National Merit Scholars,
21 National Achievement Scholars, Intel International Science and
22 Engineering Finalists, YoungArts winners, and Scholastic Art
23 and Writing Awards gold medalists; and

24 WHEREAS, ASFA student accomplishments include
25 performances with the National Youth Orchestra, competing in

1 the American Computer Science League All-Star International
2 competition, spending summers at Dance Theatre of Harlem and
3 American Ballet Theatre, having artwork professionally
4 commissioned, starring in major television shows, and
5 publishing entire books all while attending ASFA fulltime; and

6 WHEREAS, alumni of the Alabama School of Fine Arts
7 have received global recognition, fame, and industry awards,
8 won Emmy Awards, authored The Hunger Games trilogy, served as
9 NASA engineers and editors of national publications, had the
10 honor of their work being prominently displayed in museums,
11 are Billboard music artists, renowned teachers, dance company
12 founders, television writers, film producers, and CEOs of
13 successful businesses and world-changing and community serving
14 nonprofits; and

15 WHEREAS, over the course of its 50-year history, the
16 Alabama School of Fine Arts has positively impacted countless
17 students, alumni, faculty, and staff and have enriched,
18 empowered, enlightened, and advanced the state by educating
19 these individuals who have shared their special God-given
20 talents through the arts, sciences, and community service and
21 commerce; and

22 WHEREAS, the Alabama School of Fine Arts is a state
23 treasure and example of the state's enduring commitment to
24 educational excellence; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and
3 celebrate the legacy of the Alabama School of Fine Arts for
4 its 50 years of extraordinary service and educational
5 excellence to the State of Alabama and its students.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR92
Senate 08-MAR-18
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 15-MAR-18

By: Senator Smitherman