

1 HB756
2 120170-1
3 By Representative Newton (C)
4 RFD: Tourism and Travel
5 First Read: 23-MAR-10

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill creates the Old Federal Road Task
9 Force to determine whether the Old Federal Road
10 should be promoted as a historical trail.

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12 A BILL
13 TO BE ENTITLED
14 AN ACT

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16 Creating the Old Federal Road Task Force; and
17 specifying the composition, procedures, duties, and
18 compensation of the task force.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. The Legislature makes the following
21 statements and findings:

22 (1) In 1806 when the United States was still young
23 and rapidly growing westward, a horse path for postal riders
24 was opened through the Creek Nation stretching from middle
25 Georgia to costal Alabama. As the likelihood of another battle
26 with Britain increased, the crucial need to quickly move
27 troops to protect the American Gulf Coast was becoming more

1 evident. In June 1810, Colonel Richard Sparks, the commanding
2 officer of Fort Stoddert located in Mobile County, Alabama,
3 was ordered by U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis to inspect
4 and document these horse paths in order to mark a military
5 road so that troops and supplies could be sent to defend the
6 Gulf Coast. A second scouting party from Fort Stoddert was led
7 by 1st Lieutenant John Roger Nelson Lockett who made the first
8 significant survey for road construction in land that would
9 later become Alabama. On July 11, 1811, Brigadier General Wade
10 Hampton was directed to immediately begin construction of
11 three wagon roads through the Creek Nation - the second of
12 these roads became known as the Federal Road.

13 (2) With construction at last beginning in 1811, the
14 "Old Federal Road" was built from west to east connecting Fort
15 Stoddert to Fort Wilkinson, located near Milledgeville,
16 Georgia.

17 (3) The Old Federal Road successfully connected Fort
18 Stoddert to the Chattahoochee River. At that point, the
19 Federal Road merged with the earlier postal riders' horse path
20 that linked Athens, Georgia, to New Orleans, Louisiana. This
21 path quickly became a major travel route for pioneers to the
22 area once known as the Old Southwest.

23 (4) From its start as a narrow horse path used to
24 carry the mails, the Old Federal Road underwent great
25 development and became a major military road connecting early
26 American forts in the Creek Lands and the Mississippi
27 Territory. Acting as the interstate highway of its day, when

1 "Alabama Fever" raged through the Carolinas and Georgia, the
2 Old Federal Road carried thousands of pioneers to the Old
3 Southwest. As such, the Federal Road directly contributed to
4 the dramatic increase in Alabama's population between 1810 and
5 1820 with Alabama's population growing faster than that of
6 either Mississippi or Louisiana during this time. Alabama
7 continued out-distancing both Mississippi and Louisiana in
8 population growth through 1850.

9 (5) The Federal Road became a well traveled
10 stagecoach route for those going through Alabama. Nearly two
11 centuries later, remnants of the Federal Road remain visible.

12 Section 2. (a) The Old Federal Road Task Force is
13 created.

14 (b) The task force shall be composed of the
15 following persons:

16 (1) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
17 Alabama Historical Commission.

18 (2) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
19 Alabama Department of Archives and History.

20 (3) The president, or his or her designee, of any
21 four-year public college or university that is located within
22 the geographic area of the Old Federal Road.

23 (4) One member of the Alabama Senate appointed by
24 the Lieutenant Governor.

25 (5) Three members of the Alabama House of
26 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

1 (6) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
2 Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

3 (7) One member from each of the congressional
4 districts in which the Federal Road was located appointed by
5 the Speaker of the House.

6 (8) The Director, or his or her designee, of the
7 Alabama Department of Transportation.

8 (c) In making the appointments, the appointing
9 authorities shall strive to ensure that the composition of the
10 task force shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender,
11 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.
12 The task force shall annually report to the Legislature by the
13 second legislative day of each regular session the extent to
14 which the task force has complied with the diversity
15 provisions provided for in this act.

16 (d) The chair and vice chair of the task force shall
17 be elected at the first meeting of the task force, which shall
18 be called for by the Speaker of the House no later than
19 September 1, 2010. The task force shall thereafter meet at the
20 call of the chair or on a motion of a majority of its members.

21 (e) The task force shall study all aspects of how
22 best to identify and promote the Old Federal Road in this
23 state. The task force shall present annual findings,
24 conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature and the
25 Governor on or before than the tenth day of each regular
26 legislative session.

1 (f) No funds appropriated for the use of the
2 Legislature may be expended for the work of the task force.
3 Members shall serve without compensation, but may be
4 reimbursed as other state employees for per diem expenses as
5 allowed by law, and only to the extent that any funds are
6 available for reimbursement of per diem expenses of the
7 members.

8 (g) Notwithstanding the foregoing, no legislative
9 member may receive state per diem for a meeting of the task
10 force when the Legislature is in session or if a legislative
11 member is being paid any other payments on the same dates for
12 attendance of other state business.

13 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
14 first day of the third month following its passage and
15 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.