

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

SCR 15

4
5 By: Senators Higginbotham, Broadway, Altes, Argue, Baker, Bisbee, J. Bookout, Brown, Bryles, Capps,
6 Critcher, Faris, Glover, Gullett, Hendren, Hill, Holt, Horn, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress, B. Johnson, Laverty,
7 Luker, Madison, Malone, Miller, Salmon, T. Smith, Steele, Trusty, Whitaker, Wilkins, Wilkinson,
8 Womack, Wooldridge

9 By: Representatives Bolin, Petrus, Jones, Gipson, Cowling, House, Walters, Kenney, Edwards, Pate
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12 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

13 RECOMMENDING THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
14 STATES AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
15 REAUTHORIZE THE TEA-21 HIGHWAY AUTHORIZATION LAW
16 AND FUND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM AT THE
17 HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE.

18
19 **Subtitle**

20 RECOMMENDING THAT THE TEA-21 HIGHWAY
21 AUTHORIZATION LAW BE REAUTHORIZED AND
22 FUNDED AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL.
23

24 WHEREAS, Forty-five percent (45%) of Arkansas' major roads are rated in
25 poor or mediocre condition and twenty-six percent (26%) of its bridges are
26 structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Arkansas received \$444 million in federal funding for highways
29 and bridges under the TEA-21 highway authorization law in FY 2002 while
30 Arkansas motorists generated approximately \$470 million a year in revenues
31 for the Federal Highway Trust Fund; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the current highway authorization law, the Transportation
34 Equity Act for the 21st Century, expires on September 30, 2003,
35

36 NOW THEREFORE,



1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
2 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

3
4 That the 84th Arkansas General Assembly recommends to the Congress of
5 the United States and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation that:

6 (1) The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century be reauthorized
7 by September 30, 2003, to guarantee that federal highway funding will be
8 maintained at the highest level possible, that the 2.5¢ per gallon motor fuel
9 tax on gasohol now deposited in the General Fund will be redirected to the
10 Federal Highway Trust Fund, that the 5.3¢ per gallon motor fuel tax exemption
11 on gasohol will be removed and revenues directed to the Federal Highway Trust
12 Fund, and the Federal Highway Trust Fund will be drawn down to the minimum
13 sustainable level; and

14 (2) That the minimum guarantee of federal highway funding to states
15 will be increased to ninety-five percent (95%), that the Revenue Aligned
16 Budget Authority will be continued and refined to avoid radical swings in
17 funding, that budget firewalls will be retained, and that federal-aid highway
18 programs will be combined into a minimum number of programs and categories;
19 and

20 (3) That the present emphasis for environmental streamlining for
21 highway project development will be expanded, that incentives and not
22 sanctions will be used to encourage achievement of certain program goals,
23 that annual transit funding guarantees will be maintained, and that the
24 matching share for transit will be retained at an eighty percent (80%) to
25 twenty percent (20%) ratio;

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

28 That, upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Senate
29 shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the presiding officers of the
30 Unites States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and to
31 each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.