

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/8/17 H2/17/17*

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 1054

4

5 By: Representatives V. Flowers, K. Ferguson, McElroy, Richey, Holcomb, Burch

6 By: Senators E. Cheatham, *S. Flowers, T. Garner*

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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65 AS*
10 *THE "DELTA RHYTHM & BAYOUS HIGHWAY"; AND FOR OTHER*
11 *PURPOSES.*

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13

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Subtitle

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TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65
AS THE "DELTA RHYTHM & BAYOUS HIGHWAY".

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

22 The General Assembly finds that:

23 (1) The southeast Arkansas Delta lowlands have a rich culture
24 due in part to a varied musical heritage and the ecology and folklife of
25 Bayou Bartholomew, Bayou Macon, and the many surrounding bayous in the
26 region;

27 (2) Some of the most influential musicians, writers, and
28 producers, largely in the development of blues, but also in soul, county,
29 rockabilly, rhythm & blues, gospel, and folk music were from, or achieved
30 musical milestones in, the Arkansas Delta lowlands;

31 (3) Significant musical contributions were made to several
32 cities in the region, including Pine Bluff, Gould, Dumas, Grady, Dermott, Lake
33 Village, Tillar, McGehee, and Eudora, Arkansas, by many
34 great music legends including:

35 (A) "Big" Bill Broonzy;

36 (B) Jim Ed Brown;



- 1 (C) Johnny Cash;
2 (D) Sam Cooke;
3 (E) Miles Davis;
4 (F) Freddy Fender;
5 (G) Elmore James;
6 (H) Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones;
7 (I) Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter;
8 (J) Jerry Lee Lewis;
9 (K) Willie Ray "Smokie" Norful Jr.;
10 (L) Charley Patton;
11 (M) Art Griswold and Roman Griswold;
12 (N) Bobby Rush; and
13 (O) Sippie Wallace;

14 (4) Bayou Bartholomew runs approximately parallel to U.S.
15 Highway 65 from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and
16 Louisiana and is:

- 17 (A) The longest bayou in the world;
18 (B) The second most biologically diverse stream in North
19 America, inhabited by 117 aquatic species; and
20 (C) A national treasure with a historical legacy of
21 American folklife;

22 (5) Other regional bayous such as Bayou Macon, reportedly the
23 second longest bayou in the United States, make up a network of streams in
24 the Southeast Arkansas Delta which maintain historical, cultural, and
25 ecological significance;

26 (6) The combination of musical heritage and bayou folk
27 traditions make the region an ideal tourist destination for music, nature,
28 and history lovers; and

29 (7) The designation of U.S. Highway 65 South from Pine Bluff,
30 Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana as the "Delta Rhythm &
31 Bayous Highway" is essential to preserve the region's history and to promote
32 the economic development of cities in close proximity to U.S. Highway 65
33 South.

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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 67, Subchapter 2, is
36 amended to add a new section to read as follows:

27-67-226. Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway.

(a) The route along U.S. Highway 65 South from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana is designated the "Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway".

(b) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall erect appropriate signs along U.S. Highway 65 South from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana designating the route as the "Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway", including without limitation a sign in or near each of the following cities:

- (1) Dermott;
- (2) Dumas;
- (3) Gould;
- (4) Lake Village;
- (5) Pine Bluff; and
- (6) Tillar.

(c) If the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department does not have the funds available to erect the signs required under subsection (b) of this section, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department may accept and use gifts, grants, and donations received from private, public, and nonprofit sources, including without limitation a city street department or a county road department for:

- (1) Acquiring and installing the signs required under subsection (b) of this section; and
- (2) Maintaining, replacing, or reconstructing the signs required under subsection (b) of this section.

/s/V. Flowers

APPROVED: 03/13/2017