

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/8/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1054

5 By: Representatives V. Flowers, K. Ferguson, McElroy, Richey, *Holcomb, Burch*
6 By: *Senator E. Cheatham*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 *AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65 AS*
10 *THE "DELTA RHYTHM & BAYOUS HIGHWAY"; AND FOR OTHER*
11 *PURPOSES.*
12
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Subtitle

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15 *TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65*
16 *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) Bobby Rush; and
 12 (N) Sippie Wallace;"

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 27-67-226. Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway.

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

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

9 (1) Dermott;

10 (2) Dumas;

11 (3) Gould;

12 (4) Lake Village; and

13 (5) Pine Bluff.

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

20 (1) Acquiring and installing the signs required under subsection
21 (b) of this section; and

22 (2) Maintaining, replacing, or reconstructing the signs required
23 under subsection (b) of this section.

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25 /s/V. Flowers
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