

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

As Engrossed: H3/14/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2179

5 By: Representative Richey
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE PORTIONS OF VARIOUS STATE
9 HIGHWAYS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

10 TO DESIGNATE PORTIONS OF VARIOUS STATE
11 HIGHWAYS.
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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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17 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 67, Subchapter 2, is*
18 *amended to add additional sections to read as follows:*

19 27-67-226. Arkansas Delta highway designations – Legislative findings.

20 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) Eastern Arkansas commonly referred to as the "Arkansas
22 Delta" is known for its rich musical heritage;

23 (2) Some of the most influential musicians in the development of
24 blues, soul, country, rockabilly, rhythm and blues, gospel, and prison music
25 were from or achieved musical milestones in the Arkansas Delta including:

26 (A) Johnny Cash;

27 (B) Levon Helm;

28 (C) Louis Jordan; and

29 (D) Sister Rosetta Tharpe;

30 (3) The Arkansas Delta includes a portion of the Americana Music
31 Triangle which was a particularly fertile region during the development of
32 American popular music in the middle decades of the twentieth century; and

33 (4) The designation of certain highways in the Arkansas Delta is
34 essential to preserve the region's history, promote music heritage tourism in
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1 the area, and provide a highway travel route for the music enthusiast.

2 (b) The route along Highway 17 from Dyess, Arkansas, to Wilson,
3 Arkansas, where the boyhood home of Johnny Cash is located, is designated the
4 "Johnny Cash Memorial Highway".

5 (c) The route along U.S. Highway 49 from Marvell, Arkansas, to Helena,
6 Arkansas, where the boyhood home of Levon Helm is located, is designated the
7 "Levon Helm Memorial Highway".

8 (d) The route along U.S. Highway 49 from Brinkley, Arkansas, the
9 birthplace of Louis Jordan, to Marvell, Arkansas, is designated the "Louis
10 Jordan Memorial Highway".

11 (e) The route along Highway 17 from Cotton Plant, Arkansas the
12 birthplace of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, to Brinkley, Arkansas, is designated the
13 "Sister Rosetta Tharpe Memorial Highway".

14 (f) The route along U.S. Highway 61 from West Memphis, Arkansas, to
15 Blytheville, Arkansas, a region recognized for its role in the development of
16 Americana music, is designated the "Americana Music Highway".

17 (g) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall
18 erect appropriate signs along:

19 (1) Highway 17 from Dyess, Arkansas, to Wilson, Arkansas,
20 designating the route as the "Johnny Cash Memorial Highway";

21 (2) U.S. Highway 49 from Marvell, Arkansas, to Helena, Arkansas,
22 designating the route as the "Levon Helm Memorial Highway";

23 (3) U.S. Highway 49 from Brinkley, Arkansas, to Marvell,
24 Arkansas, designating the route as the "Louis Jordan Memorial Highway";

25 (4) Highway 17 from Cotton Plant, Arkansas, to Brinkley,
26 Arkansas, designating the route as the "Sister Rosetta Tharpe Memorial
27 Highway"; and

28 (5) U.S. Highway 61 from West Memphis, Arkansas, to Blytheville,
29 Arkansas, designating the route as the "Americana Music Highway".

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31 /s/Richey

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34 **APPROVED: 04/01/2017**