

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: H3/6/09
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1837

5 By: Representatives J. Rogers, Cook, Carroll, J. Dickinson, Moore, Pierce
6 By: Senators R. Thompson, D. Wyatt
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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF HIGHWAY 67 AS
11 ROCK 'N' ROLL HIGHWAY 67; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF HIGHWAY 67 AS
15 ROCK 'N' ROLL HIGHWAY 67.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. Legislative findings:

21 The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) Arkansas has a great and varied music heritage;

23 (2) The heritage includes a new type of music that emerged in
24 the 1940s and 1950s called "rock 'n' roll";

25 (3) Some of the early "rock 'n' roll" legends that regularly
26 traveled Highway 67 through Jackson County, Lawrence County, and Randolph
27 County to perform their new type of music included:

28 (A) Elvis Presley;

29 (B) Billy Lee Riley;

30 (C) Sonny Burgess;

31 (D) Roy Orbison;

32 (E) Jerry Lee Lewis;

33 (F) Carl Perkins;

34 (G) Johnny Cash;

35 (H) Conway Twitty, whose real name was Harold Jenkins;

36 (I) Charlie Rich;



1 (J) Ace Cannon;
2 (K) Bobby Lee Trammell, a former Arkansas State
3 Representative, who had a hit known as “Arkansas Twist”;
4 (L) Fats Domino; and
5 (M) The many others who played this route that contributed
6 to the birth of rock ‘n’ roll.

7 (4) The live performances by the rock ‘n’ roll legends were at
8 many establishments along Highway 67 including:

9 (A) The Silver Moon in Newport;
10 (B) Porky’s Rooftop in Newport;
11 (C) Jarvis’ Club in Newport;
12 (D) Woody’s Club in Newport;
13 (E) The Newport Armory;
14 (F) Charley’s Place in Swifton;
15 (G) B and I Club, later known as Bob King’s Club and
16 King’s Capri Club between Swifton and Alicia;
17 (H) Mike’s 67 Club between Swifton and Alicia;
18 (I) The Walnut Ridge Community Center; and
19 (J) On the top of the Skylark Drive-in Theater in
20 Pocahontas;

21 (5) While academics and historians have indicated that a change
22 in the name of this music to “rockabilly” should be made, everyone who lived,
23 breathed, and rocked during this time called the music rock ‘n’ roll; and

24 (6) To honor our rock ‘n’ roll music heritage and all of those
25 who enjoyed it then and continue to enjoy it today, the route that these
26 legendary performers regularly made on Highway 67 through Jackson County,
27 Lawrence County, and Randolph County should be recognized by officially
28 naming it “Rock ‘n’ Roll Highway 67”.

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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 67, Subchapter 2 is amended
31 to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 27-67-223. Rock ‘n’ Roll Highway 67.

33 (a) The route along Highway 67 through Jackson County, Lawrence
34 County, and Randolph County regularly traveled by the great legends of early
35 rock ‘n’ roll is hereby designated “Rock ‘n’ Roll Highway 67”.

36 (b) The State Highway and Transportation Department shall erect

1 appropriate signs along Highway 67 through Jackson County, Lawrence County,
2 and Randolph County designating the route as “Rock ’n’ Roll Highway 67”.

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/s/ J. Rogers