

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1054

5 By: Representatives V. Flowers, K. Ferguson, McElroy, Richey
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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14 TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65
15 AS THE DELTA RHYTHM 'N' BAYOUS HIGHWAY.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

21 The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) The southeast Arkansas Delta lowlands have a rich culture
23 due in part to a varied musical heritage and the ecology and folklife of
24 Bayou Bartholomew;

25 (2) Some of the most influential musicians in the development of
26 blues, soul, country, rockabilly, rhythm and blues, gospel, and prison music
27 were from, or achieved musical milestones in, the Arkansas Delta lowlands;

28 (3) Musical contributions were made to the cities of Pine Bluff,
29 Gould, Dumas, Dermott, and Lake Village, Arkansas, by many great music
30 legends including:

31 (A) "Big" Bill Broonzy;

32 (B) Jim Ed Brown;

33 (C) Johnny Cash;

34 (D) Sam Cooke;

35 (E) Miles Davis;

36 (F) Freddy Fender;



- 1 (G) Elmore James;
- 2 (H) Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones;
- 3 (I) Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter;
- 4 (J) Jerry Lee Lewis;
- 5 (K) Charley Patton;
- 6 (L) Bobby Rush;
- 7 (M) Conway Twitty; and
- 8 (N) Sippie Wallace;

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

- 11 (A) The longest bayou in the world;
- 12 (B) The second most biologically diverse stream in North
 13 America, inhabited by 117 aquatic species; and
- 14 (C) A national treasure with a historical legacy of
 15 American folklife;

16 (5) The combined music and bayou history make the region an
 17 ideal tourist destination for music, nature, and history lovers; and

18 (6) The designation of U.S. Highway 65 from Pine Bluff,
 19 Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana as the "Delta Rhythm
 20 'n' Bayous Highway" is essential to preserve the region's history and to
 21 promote the economic development of cities in close proximity to U.S. Highway
 22 65.

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

26 27-67-226. Delta Rhythm 'n' Bayous Highway.

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

30 (b) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department or county
 31 road department shall erect appropriate signs along U.S. Highway 65 from Pine
 32 Bluff, Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana designating the
 33 route as the "Delta Rhythm 'n' Bayous Highway," including without limitation
 34 a sign in each of the following cities:

- 35 (1) Dermott;
- 36 (2) Dumas;

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

4 (c) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department or county
5 road department may apply for, receive, and use gifts, grants, and donations
6 from private, public, and nonprofit sources to:

7 (1) Acquire and install the signs required under subsection (b)
8 of this section; and

9 (2) Maintain, replace, or reconstruct the signs required under
10 subsection (b) of this section.

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