

**SJR74 INTRODUCED**



1 F62EDC-1  
2 By Senator Carnley  
3 RFD:  
4 First Read: 16-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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SJR\_\_\_ DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 9 AS ALABAMA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME DAY.

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1891, an Act of Incorporation was approved by the state Legislature for what would become the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 1891, Mrs. Mariah Louise Short Becton Woodson of Selma, Alabama, committed her estate as a gift to the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes, ensuring some financial stability for this new ministry; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 1893, Reverend John "Father" Stewart, former pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church became superintendent of the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and accepted three children into care; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 1923, more than 60 young children and their matrons traveled by train from Evergreen, Alabama, to Troy, Alabama, to occupy a new campus for Alabama Baptist Children's Homes; and

WHEREAS, from 1923 until 1999, the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries occupied the Troy campus and served tens of thousands of children, many of whom have remained in Alabama and have contributed greatly to our state; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and



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29 Family Ministries continues to thrive as a statewide  
30 ministry that provides foster homes for hundreds of  
31 children, as well as safe housing for single homeless  
32 mothers with dependent children, and a array of family  
33 services that serve the citizens of Alabama exceptionally  
34 well; now therefore,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
36 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That February 9 be acknowledged  
37 on the state's calendar as Alabama Baptist Children's Homes  
38 Day in acknowledgment for the past and current contributions  
39 made to our great state by Alabama Baptist Children's Homes  
40 and Family Ministries and as a tribute to the Alabama  
41 citizens who grew up on the Troy campus.