

Enacted. 2006-489

1 HJR534
2 83406-2
3 By Representative Boothe
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 15-MAR-06

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
DESIGNATING 2006 AS THE YEAR OF STUDY ABROAD FOR THE
STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, encouraging the citizens of Alabama to
become globally literate is an important part of the mission
of higher education in this state; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2002 American Council on
Education poll, 79 percent of people in the United States
agree that students should have a study abroad experience
sometime during college, but only one percent of students from
the United States and less than 1,500 Alabama students
currently study abroad each year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Coalition for
International Education, institutions of higher education in
the United States are struggling to graduate enough students
with the language skills and cultural competence necessary to
meet the current demands of business, government, and
educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, providing the future leaders of this state
with the broadest possible education will significantly impact
our national security, foreign policy, economic
competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance; and

1 WHEREAS, study abroad programs help students to be
2 more informed about the world and empowered to develop the
3 cultural awareness necessary to better understand themselves
4 and others through comparison of cultural values and ways of
5 life; and every student in the Alabama education system should
6 have the opportunity for study abroad; and

7 WHEREAS, increasingly complex international trade
8 relations, the urgent needs of developing nations, concerns
9 for the preservation of our global ecology and the constant
10 goal of world peace require that today's students be concerned
11 about international events; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Senate has declared 2006
13 as the Year of Study Abroad and Alabama Governor Bob Riley has
14 each year declared one week in November as State of Alabama
15 International Education Week; and

16 WHEREAS, the bipartisan, federally appointed
17 Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship
18 Program has made recommendations for enhanced support for
19 study abroad opportunities on a national scale; and

20 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is ideally suited to
21 accomplish these objectives and take pride in its strong
22 international presence through research and academic programs
23 throughout higher education across the State of Alabama; and

1 WHEREAS, the emphasis on international education in
2 Alabama will strengthen global understanding and build a
3 foundation for the future of our state; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby resolve as follows:

6 (1) That 2006 be designated as the Year of Study
7 Abroad for the State of Alabama.

8 (2) Schools, institutions of higher learning,
9 businesses, and government programs are encouraged to promote,
10 collaborate on and expand study abroad opportunities.

11 (3) Educators, school board members, business
12 leaders, and elected officials are encouraged to support
13 initiatives and collaborative efforts to promote and expand
14 study abroad opportunities and observe the "Year of Study
15 Abroad" with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other
16 activities.

17 (4) Educators, school board members, business
18 leaders, and elected officials are encouraged to come together
19 each year for a summit on international education to further
20 the international education needs of Alabama and provide an
21 annual report on the state of international education in
22 Alabama.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
24 resolution be provided to the State Board of Education and the

1 Alabama Commission on Higher Education in recognition of the
2 importance of study abroad to Alabama students.

