

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the historical significance of U.S. Highway 80 and to commemorate the approaching 100th anniversary of its designation.

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 80 was officially designated on November 11, 1926, as one of the original numbered highways in the United States Highway System and became one of America's earliest transcontinental automobile routes, extending from the Atlantic coast near Savannah, Georgia, to the Pacific coast in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 80 was established in 1926 as the Dixie Overland Highway, also known by other auto trail names depending on the region, most notably the Broadway of America and the Bankhead Highway; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 80 was promoted as an all-weather southern corridor that increased commerce, tourism, and connectivity throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, during the twentieth century, U.S. Highway 80 served as a principal east-west transportation corridor and contributed to the growth of roadside commerce, travel culture, and economic development across Louisiana and the nation; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 80 passes through numerous Louisiana communities, including Monroe, Rayville, Ruston, Minden, Haughton, Bossier City, and Shreveport, where it functioned as an important commercial corridor; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 80 contributed to the cultural and economic development of North Louisiana and is associated with the region's musical heritage, including the influence of the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, a highly influential live country and western radio broadcast, during the era when U.S. Highway 80 served as a major travel route; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has recognized portions of Historic U.S. Highway 80 as a scenic byway, preserving elements of the state's roadside and transportation heritage, including a one hundred mile stretch that extends from Ruston to the Mississippi River designated as the Historic U.S. 80 Byway, with preserved neon signs and roadside architecture that defined the golden age of American travel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of U.S. Highway 80 and commemorates the approaching 100th anniversary of its designation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE