

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/8/17 H2/17/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1054

By: Representatives V. Flowers, K. Ferguson, McElroy, Richey, Holcomb, Burch  
By: Senators E. Cheatham, S. Flowers, T. Garner

### For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65 AS  
THE "DELTA RHYTHM & BAYOUS HIGHWAY"; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.*

### Subtitle

*TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65  
AS THE "DELTA RHYTHM & BAYOUS HIGHWAY".*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The southeast Arkansas Delta lowlands have a rich culture due in part to a varied musical heritage and the ecology and folklife of Bayou Bartholomew, Bayou Macon, and the many surrounding bayous in the region;

(2) Some of the most influential musicians, writers, and producers, largely in the development of blues, but also in soul, county, rockabilly, rhythm & blues, gospel, and folk music were from, or achieved musical milestones in, the Arkansas Delta lowlands;

(3) Significant musical contributions were made to several cities in the region, including Pine Bluff, Gould, Dumas, Grady, Dermott, Lake Village, Tillar, McGehee, and Eudora, Arkansas, by many great music legends including:

(A) "Big" Bill Broonzy;

(B) Jim Ed Brown;



- (C) Johnny Cash;
- (D) Sam Cooke;
- (E) Miles Davis;
- (F) Freddy Fender;
- (G) Elmore James;
- (H) Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones;
- (I) Huddie "Lead Belly" Ledbetter;
- (J) Jerry Lee Lewis;
- (K) Willie Ray "Smokie" Norful Jr.;
- (L) Charley Patton;
- (M) Art Griswold and Roman Griswold;
- (N) Bobby Rush; and
- (O) Sippie Wallace;

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

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

(5) Other regional bayous such as Bayou Macon, reportedly the second longest bayou in the United States, make up a network of streams in the Southeast Arkansas Delta which maintain historical, cultural, and ecological significance;

(6) The combination of musical heritage and bayou folk traditions make the region an ideal tourist destination for music, nature, and history lovers; and

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

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

27-67-226. Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway.

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

(b) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall erect appropriate signs along U.S. Highway 65 South from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the border between Arkansas and Louisiana designating the route as the "Delta Rhythm & Bayous Highway", including without limitation a sign in or near each of the following cities:

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

(c) If the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department does not have the funds available to erect the signs required under subsection (b) of this section, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department may accept and use gifts, grants, and donations received from private, public, and nonprofit sources, including without limitation a city street department or a county road department for:

- (1) Acquiring and installing the signs required under subsection (b) of this section; and
- (2) Maintaining, replacing, or reconstructing the signs required under subsection (b) of this section.

/s/V. Flowers

**APPROVED: 03/13/2017**