

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2179

By: Representative Richey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO DESIGNATE PORTIONS OF VARIOUS STATE
HIGHWAYS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO DESIGNATE PORTIONS OF VARIOUS STATE
HIGHWAYS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 67, Subchapter 2, is amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

27-67-226. Arkansas Delta highway designations – Legislative findings.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Eastern Arkansas commonly referred to as the "Arkansas Delta" is known for its rich musical heritage;

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

(A) Johnny Cash;

(B) Levon Helm;

(C) Louis Jordan; and

(D) Sister Rosetta Tharpe;

(3) The Arkansas Delta includes a portion of the Americana Music Triangle which was a particularly fertile region during the development of American popular music in the middle decades of the twentieth century; and

(4) The designation of certain highways in the Arkansas Delta is essential to preserve the region's history, promote music heritage tourism in



the area, and provide a highway travel route for the music enthusiast.

(b) The route along Highway 17 from Dyess, Arkansas, to Wilson, Arkansas, where the boyhood home of Johnny Cash is located, is designated the "Johnny Cash Memorial Highway".

(c) The route along U.S. Highway 49 from Marvell, Arkansas, to Helena, Arkansas, where the boyhood home of Levon Helm is located, is designated the "Levon Helm Memorial Highway".

(d) The route along U.S. Highway 49 from Brinkley, Arkansas, the birthplace of Louis Jordan, to Marvell, Arkansas, is designated the "Louis Jordan Memorial Highway".

(e) The route along Highway 17 from Cotton Plant, Arkansas the birthplace of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, to Brinkley, Arkansas, is designated the "Sister Rosetta Tharpe Memorial Highway".

(f) The route along U.S. Highway 61 from West Memphis, Arkansas, to Blytheville, Arkansas, a region recognized for its role in the development of Americana music, is designated the "Americana Music Highway".

(g) The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department shall erect appropriate signs along:

(1) Highway 17 from Dyess, Arkansas, to Wilson, Arkansas, designating the route as the "Johnny Cash Memorial Highway";

(2) U.S. Highway 49 from Marvell, Arkansas, to Helena, Arkansas, designating the route as the "Levon Helm Memorial Highway";

(3) U.S. Highway 49 from Brinkley, Arkansas, to Marvell, Arkansas, designating the route as the "Louis Jordan Memorial Highway";

(4) Highway 17 from Cotton Plant, Arkansas, to Brinkley, Arkansas, designating the route as the "Sister Rosetta Tharpe Memorial Highway"; and

(5) U.S. Highway 61 from West Memphis, Arkansas, to Blytheville, Arkansas, designating the route as the "Americana Music Highway".

/s/Richey

APPROVED: 04/01/2017