

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HR 1038

4
5 By: Representative Duffield
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7
8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO HONOR BLUES MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, RECORD PRODUCER,
10 AND SINGER BOBBY RUSH FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC
11 AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
12

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO HONOR BLUES MUSICIAN, COMPOSER,
16 RECORD PRODUCER, AND SINGER BOBBY RUSH
17 FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND TO
18 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
19

20 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush, who spent his teenage years in Pine Bluff and
21 began his musical career there, is a Grammy Award-winning musician and
22 inductee into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, the Blues Hall of Fame, the
23 Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, and the Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of
24 Fame; and
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26 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush was born Emmett Ellis, Jr. near Homer, Louisiana,
27 on November 10, 1933, and began experimenting with music as a young child by
28 using a sugarcane syrup bucket and a broom-wire "diddley bow" zither; and
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30 WHEREAS, in 1947, Bobby Rush moved with his family to Pine Bluff, where
31 Rush befriended musicians including Elmore James, Boyd Gilmore, and Johnny
32 "Big Moose" Walker; and
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34 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush soon formed his own band, Bobby Rush and the Four
35 Jivers, featuring Boyd Gilmore and Johnny "Big Moose" Walker as well as Joe
36 Willie "Pinetop" Perkins and Robert Plunkett; and



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2 WHEREAS, through Boyd Gilmore, Bobby Rush became friends with soon-to-
3 be globally famous musician Izear Luster "Ike" Turner; and
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5 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush moved with his family to Chicago in 1953, where he
6 began performing on a circuit with Jamesetta "Etta James" Hawkins, Chester
7 Arthur "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett, McKinley "Muddy Waters" Morganfield, Freddie
8 King, and Mathis James "Jimmy" Reed; and
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10 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush's song "Chicken Heads" became his breakout record
11 and his first gold-certified record, meaning that five hundred thousand
12 (500,000) or more copies were sold, and it reached number thirty-four (34) in
13 1971 on the Billboard Rhythm & Blues chart and reemerged as a Billboard hit
14 in 2006 after being featured in the film "Black Snake Moan"; and
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16 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush's song "I Wanna Do the Do" reached number seventy-
17 five (75) on the Billboard Rhythm & Blues chart in 1979, and his 1981 album
18 "Sue" as well as his 1991 album "I Ain't Studdin' You" both became gold-
19 certified; and
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21 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush was honored by Rolling Stone magazine for his fifty
22 (50) years of relentless world touring and his colorful live show, and
23 performed twice for former President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton; and
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25 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush appeared in the Martin Scorsese documentary film
26 series "The Blues" and the Daniel Cross documentary "I Am the Blues", and
27 also appeared as himself in the 2019 film "Dolemite is My Name" performing
28 his hit song, "I Ain't Studdin' You"; and
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30 WHEREAS, Bobby Rush won Grammy Awards in 2017, 2021, and 2024 in the
31 category of Best Traditional Blues Album for his albums "Porcupine Meat",
32 "Rawer than Raw", and "All My Love for You",
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34 NOW THEREFORE,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
36 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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THAT the House of Representatives honor blues musician, composer, record producer, and singer Bobby Rush for his contributions to music and to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Bobby Rush by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.