

1 SJR15  
2 179430-1  
3 By Senators Waggoner, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,  
6 Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders,  
7 Sanford, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman,  
8 Stutts, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 18-AUG-16

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE JIM  
9 BENNETT.

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow and regret that we  
12 note the lamentable death of James R. "Jim" Bennett on August  
13 17, 2016, at the age of 76; he was a lifelong public servant;  
14 he served four times as Alabama Secretary of State; he served  
15 in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1978 through  
16 1983, the Alabama Senate from 1983 until 1993, and was  
17 appointed by Governor Bob Riley as the Commissioner of the  
18 Alabama Department of Labor; and

19 WHEREAS, a graduate of Jacksonville State University  
20 and the University of Alabama; he was a longtime member and  
21 former President of the Board of Trustees for Jacksonville  
22 State University; and

23 WHEREAS, from 1961 through 1971, prior to his  
24 political career, he was a reporter for the Birmingham  
25 Post-Herald; later he wrote a series of columns for AL.com and  
26 is the author of several history books including, Historic

1 Birmingham and Jefferson County and Tannehill and the Growth  
2 of the Alabama Iron Industry; and

3 WHEREAS, while serving as Secretary of State, he  
4 also served as President of the National Association of  
5 Secretaries of State and brought the national convention of  
6 that organization to Mobile, Alabama; and

7 WHEREAS, with decades of involvement in government  
8 and public affairs, he was known for his unselfish service to  
9 the Citizens of Alabama; he was recently awarded the  
10 Governor's Cross, which is the highest honor bestowed by the  
11 Alabama National Guard; and

12 WHEREAS, Jim Bennett was a valued member of the  
13 community and loved by many, and we join with others to mourn  
14 the death of our friend and colleague; although his presence  
15 will be greatly missed, his memory will be cherished in the  
16 hearts and minds of those who were fortunate to know him and  
17 all those whom he served; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Jim Bennett is  
20 recorded with deep sadness, and even as we mourn his death, we  
21 also celebrate his life; this resolution is offered in highest  
22 tribute, along with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose  
23 grief is shared by many.