

1 HR6
2 176426-2
3 By Representative Martin
4 RFD: Rules
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8 DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 SHROUD AWARD.
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10 WHEREAS, once again it is time for the annual Shroud
11 Award, in which the deadest legislation of the 2016 Regular
12 Session is revealed. It is a sine die tradition that fosters a
13 spirit of fellowship and collegiality. In the past some have
14 described it as one big old Group Hug. This year, it may be
15 wiser to embrace a policy of keeping your hands to yourself.
16 This is the 38th edition of the ceremony and in our advancing
17 years, some have accused the award of evolving from mild
18 satire and meek sarcasms to the more vile and vulgar. Come on,
19 you folks know that's not us. We're not the one using
20 adjectives like con artist, robotic, pant wetter, choker,
21 spray tan man, a HUGE problem, a Socialist, and even a
22 Canadian. Not once have we uttered those dreaded L words:
23 Loser, Liar, and Low Energizer. The rallying cry Keep Your
24 Mitt off his small hands did not come from our lips. No, as we
25 all know, these terms of affection derived, not from the
26 Shroud Resolution, but from the SEC Primary. You know, the
27 Sorry Excuse for Candidates Election. Where are Charles

1 Barkley and Shorty Price when you need them? Our Mamas taught
2 us to behave better than that. Our apologies to those who seek
3 sensationalism, but governance is serious business. No matter
4 what's happening on Joke Hill, we absolutely refuse to act
5 Presidential. We won't show any risque magazine photos of your
6 spouses. We decline to insult your husbands and wives. The
7 fact that they are married to you all says it all. Unlike
8 recent election efforts, the Shroud Award isn't self-funded,
9 but hopefully it is self-fun. We won't have any Super
10 Delegates, but will try to be Super Delicate. Our conduct will
11 not get us expelled from the electoral college, but our winner
12 will be attending the school of hard knocks. So, in these days
13 of difficulties, let's enjoy a few laughs at the expense of
14 our colleagues. It's okay because it's revenue neutral. It's
15 time for the 2016 contenders to Feel the Bern, Alabama style.
16 Those bills that came up short in winning our big prize, but
17 are worthy of dishonorable mention are:

18 House Bill 166 by Representative Mike Hill, allowing
19 Legislators retired under the Teachers and State Employees
20 Retirement Systems to earn part-time compensation with a
21 system participating employer. For some reason the sly old
22 country boy from Shelby County sounded a little suspicious
23 when he repeatedly evaded the question who does this double
24 dip do-over help. His Ahh Shucks and I'm looking out for all
25 my friends routine wasn't enough to smooth the hypocrisy
26 heartburn this tantalizing spread provided. The accompanying
27 chips weren't in a bowl, but were on some members' shoulders.

1 Folks want to assist their buddies, but it helps to know who
2 they are. We are not implying that the Shelby Senior has lost
3 his touch, but we sure don't see many of those "We like Mike"
4 buttons anymore. Just saying, that since your 60th birthday
5 celebration in 2009, a lot of water has gone over Lay Dam. And
6 for that mystery member, don't count on winning this year's
7 popularity contest. Deciding this double dip recipe was a tad
8 too spicy, the BIR failed 41 to 36.

9 House Bill 136 by Representative Victor Gaston,
10 allowing the driver of a motorcycle to disregard a
11 traffic-control signal and proceed through an intersection
12 under certain conditions. This bill addresses dead red lights,
13 an annoying and dangerous situation where a motorcycle has
14 insufficient weight or metal to activate the traffic light
15 sensor. This proposal has idled in the Public Safety Committee
16 about as long as complaining riders say they have to wait at
17 intersections. While the proposal may have merit, the Shroud
18 selection committee finds it more noteworthy for the possible
19 secret life of its primary proponent. Who knew that the
20 position of Speaker Pro Tempore carried the ex officio title
21 LEADER OF THE PACK. We have to wonder if under that finely
22 tailored suit and conservative dress shirt, the sponsor is
23 wearing a Sons of Anarchy tee shirt. And under that, are there
24 a couple of tattoos? Perhaps a skull and crossbones and a "I
25 Heart Harleys"? We are certain one reads "PARTY UNTIL YOU SINE
26 DIE." We thought the Mobile Motorman frequented juice, not
27 biker bars. We even heard he's thinking of adding a "Y" to his

1 name, changing from Victor to Victory, in honor of one of the
2 baddest bikes on the market. Doctor Gaston, you may be BORN TO
3 BE WILD, but until your bill passes, you're still going to
4 have to wait until the light turns green.

5 WHEREAS, having disposed of the also rans, it is now
6 time to disclose the deadest bill of 2016. In order to ensure
7 the Reading Clerk does not have a Steve Harvey moment, allow
8 us to provide a few clues. This bill would:

9 Engage, then enrage, young people with politics.

10 Cause the sponsor to be taken to school; Sunday
11 School.

12 Show that the draft was flawed.

13 Involve both making book and throwing the book.

14 Prove that it's always a good bet to let sleeping
15 dogs lie.

16 Cause several ESPN moments: Every Sponsor's Personal
17 Nightmare.

18 Strike a note for gender equality, with three out of
19 the last four Shroud Award winners being women.

20 Think you know? Are you willing to bet on it?

21 Obviously, most were not. The winner of the 2016 Shroud Award
22 is House Bill 56 regulating fantasy contests. Funny, but we
23 old timers always thought Fantasy Sports involved Auburn fans
24 dreaming of the day NICK SABAN RETIRES. Yeah, haters are
25 going to hate. Initially, we have to ask the Gentle Lady from
26 Jasper if winning the Shroud Award was on some kind of bizzare
27 bucket list? In the last Special Session you carried the less

1 than likeable cigarette tax, which some considered the
2 original sin. Now you come with this benign proposal that
3 merely caused many to foam at the mouth. Your Dream Team of
4 Controversial Contenders is well on its way. All you need is a
5 couple more bills expanding government, restricting Second
6 Amendment Rights, and increasing property taxes. As current
7 Shroud Award holder Jimmy Martin so succinctly puts it: A
8 Police Chief should know better. A fan duel immediately arose
9 concerning whether this was gaming or gambling. Forget foot,
10 basket, and base Ball, critics maintained that Connie Ball was
11 really Power Ball. Basically, the debate on this bill could be
12 broken down to a couple of barnyard truths offered by
13 Representatives McCampbell and Shedd. If it looks like a pig,
14 it's a pig and if it quacks like a duck, it's a duck. We are
15 not quite sure what that means, but down by the well there
16 sure was a lot of manure being kicked around. Let's just say
17 the sponsor had a long Rowe to hoe before she could be a
18 winner too. The proponents wanted to talk about statistics,
19 while the opponents wanted to talk about Scripture. Promoted
20 as a consumer protection bill, some observers were confused if
21 the person being protected was the nerd living in his parent's
22 basement or the sketchy guy running a wagering empire under a
23 beach umbrella in the Caribbean. Over a turbulent two days of
24 procedural maneuvering, the vote changed more times than the
25 Crimson Tide's coaching staff. Highlights include: revenue
26 raising measures that were added and deleted, twice; exemption
27 from the gambling laws was removed and restored by two and

1 three vote margins; efforts to add other wagering venues to
2 the gambling exception were denied; and motions to carryover
3 were lost and then won. The sponsor was right. You definitely
4 needed skill to play this contest. While still early in the
5 competition, the gentle lady's chances to win this flight of
6 fancy were unexpectedly shot down by Strange outside forces.
7 The Attorney General, hearing more than his share of Gambling
8 Gripes, coupled with the extraordinary coincidence that the
9 fees earmarked for his office had been amended out, suddenly
10 decided these Dungeons and Dragons contests for jocks violated
11 existing wagering laws. He ordered those involved to cease and
12 desist. Once a law enforcer, always a law enforcer, Chief
13 Connie did just that; cease and desist. Her PG rated fantasy
14 was now an X rated nightmare; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
16 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2016 Shroud
17 Award is House Bill 56 regulating Fantasy Contests. Unable to
18 beat the odds, Representative Connie Rowe is requested to come
19 forth to accept the symbolic shroud and to pay off her less
20 than wise bet.