

## HJR66 INTRODUCED



1 HJR66  
2 LGFUYAY-1  
3 By Representatives Jackson, Warren, Drummond, Ensler, Hollis,  
4 Rafferty, Hendrix, Lawrence, Travis, Sellers, McCampbell,  
5 Clarke, England, Hall, Morris  
6 RFD: RULES  
7 First Read: 27-Feb-24



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HJR\_\_\_\_\_ URGING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO  
DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT EXECUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the death penalty is a complicated and  
complex issue for both moral reasons and because the  
practice is greatly flawed; the appropriate resolution is a  
moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is proudly a pro-life  
state and passionately defends the right to life; this  
passion for preserving life should extend to each and every  
citizen; a society that values life should not deliberately  
kill human beings; there is no moral ambiguity concerning  
the death penalty as a legal execution is still the murder  
of a human life; and

WHEREAS, Alabama sentences more people to death per  
capita than any other state; we have consistently lagged  
behind other states in revising outdated laws and procedures  
that govern sentencing; Alabama was the last state to  
abolish judicial override and used it to sentence more  
people to death than any other state; Alabama continues to  
allow death sentences to be imposed even when jury verdicts  
are not unanimous; currently, an alarming 80 percent of  
people sentenced to Alabama's death row did not receive  
unanimous jury verdicts; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, Alabama has executed 73 people



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29 and exonerated nine which illustrates that for every eight  
30 people executed, one has been exonerated; in death penalty  
31 cases, perjury, false accusations, and official misconduct  
32 are the leading causes of wrongful convictions; further, a  
33 person does not need to be innocent to be wrongly sentenced  
34 to death; in Alabama, over 160 death sentences have been  
35 invalidated by state and federal courts, resulting in  
36 conviction of a lesser offense or lesser sentence on  
37 retrial; and

38 WHEREAS, other problems regarding death penalty  
39 convictions include potential failure to ensure that these  
40 cases are administered fairly and impartially in accordance  
41 with due process, the disproportionate number of minorities  
42 who are sentenced to death, the failure of the state to  
43 provide competent counsel to minorities and indigent people  
44 in capital cases, and evidence that the punishment of death  
45 is not an effective deterrent against criminal behavior; and

46 WHEREAS, 23 states have abolished the death penalty;  
47 six additional states have a gubernatorial hold on  
48 executions; and the federal government has declared a hold  
49 on executions pending review of policies and procedures; now  
50 therefore,

51 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
52 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the possibility of taking  
53 even one innocent life is too great a risk for the state to  
54 take and a moratorium on executions would relieve that risk;  
55 the Legislature is urged to take this matter into



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56 consideration and declare a moratorium on capital punishment  
57 executions.