

HR374 INTRODUCED



1 HR374
2 7BHKK2E-1
3 By Representative Pringle
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-May-25



1
2
3
4 HR_____ DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 SHROUD AWARD.
5

6 WHEREAS, there are several world-famous automobile
7 races that take place this time of year, the Talladega 500,
8 the Indianapolis 500, the Formula 1 Grand Prix of Monaco,
9 and the 24 Hours of Le Mans; to win any of those races is
10 the culmination of a dream; and

11 WHEREAS, today, we announce another race, which, if
12 won, will be the culmination of shattered dreams and good
13 intentions; ladies and gentlemen, I give you "The Goat Hill
14 105," otherwise known as The Shroud Award; more than 600
15 bills make up the field for today's race, but in the end,
16 only a handful of these finely crafted pieces of Alabama
17 designed and built legislation will be in contention for the
18 Earl Mitchell Memorial Plaque, named after the former
19 representative and father of The Shroud Award who managed a
20 funeral home in Northport; and

21 WHEREAS, I see Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter has
22 finished assigning bills to committee and is reaching for
23 the Green Flag; the bills are picking up speed coming down
24 the Union Street straight; the Speaker is waving the Green
25 Flag; and we are racing at Goat Hill; and

26 WHEREAS, it looks like all the bills have gotten off
27 to a clean start; they're heading into turn one at
28 Washington Avenue, better known as Committee Corner, and are



HR374 INTRODUCED

29 approaching the New State House roundabout; and there's
30 already trouble on the track; the yellow flag is out, and
31 smoke is pouring from the back of House Bill 489, the "Show
32 Me the Money Special," driven by Smiling Jeremy Gray; this
33 bill would have brought the Name-Image-Likeness program that
34 has been so highly successful at the college level (just ask
35 Nick Saban) to high school athletes all across the Great
36 State of Alabama; Representative Gray's bill was extremely
37 easy to spot in this pack of legislation; in fact, with all
38 of the colorful corporate sponsor stickers you could barely
39 see the bill number; the only sponsor he didn't have was
40 STP, which might have kept his bill from blowing up only a
41 quarter of a lap into the race; the well-liked
42 representative from Lee and Russell counties is waving to
43 the crowd and walking back to the pits; no doubt he'll be
44 back in the running next year; the clean-up crews have taken
45 care of the oil dropped by House Bill 489, and we're back to
46 green flag racing; and

47 WHEREAS, twenty-five laps have been completed and the
48 first bill coming in for a scheduled pit stop is House Bill
49 277, the Bonnie and Clyde Special, driven by Swervin' Ernie
50 Yarbrough of Trinity; Representative Yarbrough's bill would
51 have created a Second Amendment tax holiday for guns,
52 ammunition, and hunting supplies and would be scheduled at a
53 time between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July; the fiscal
54 note on the bill suggested there would be little if any
55 impact on state revenue since most gun owners in Alabama
56 already have enough weapons and ammunition to fight World



HR374 INTRODUCED

57 Wars III, IV, and V; Yarbrough's pit crew has finished
58 putting on four new "Bad Year" tires and topped the bill off
59 with 18 gallons of "Goat Hill Go Juice"; the jacks are down
60 and Yarbrough "guns" his engine (you should pardon the pun),
61 and his bill stalls; his crew is trying to push him off, but
62 that bill looks to be as dead as Elmer Fudd's chances of
63 shooting Bugs Bunny; and

64 WHEREAS, back to the race; we're now 60 laps into
65 this 105-lap thriller and there have been several lead
66 changes; wait a minute - the officials are showing a black
67 flag to a bill that doesn't have a number; officials are
68 surrounding the bill as it comes to a stop in the pits;
69 there's quite a commotion going on, and they're impounding
70 the bill; a race official has noticed something on the side
71 of that bill; he's pulling off what appears to be duct tape;
72 and on the side of that bill are the words "Snake Eyes"; the
73 driver is a state senator; it's Greg "They Don't Call Me
74 Dick Dastardly For Nothing" Albritton; Albritton tried to
75 sneak a gambling bill into the final laps of this race; is
76 there no limit to how low the Alabama Senate will stoop;
77 what a race this has been and we're rapidly approaching the
78 end; and

79 WHEREAS, the bills are coming out of the tri-oval at
80 Monroe Street and are headed to the line, it's going to be
81 close; it's going to be very close; Speaker Ledbetter waves
82 the checkered flag; and the winner of the first Goat Hill
83 105 is House Bill 18, "The Strap 'Em Down and Buckle 'Em Up
84 Special," driven by Ron "Stretch" Bolton; Representative



HR374 INTRODUCED

Bolton's bill would have revised the weight and age ranges for determining the appropriate child passenger restraint system parents would be required to use in their vehicles; as with the other two House bills, there's no question of Representative Bolton's good intentions, but to say this bill was complicated is being kind; while Representatives Gray and Yarbrough's bills were fairly straightforward, Representative Bolton's bill read like chapters from a pediatrician's anatomy book or an instruction manual on how to operate a nuclear reactor; opposition to the bill came from both sides of the aisle; when Representative Terry Collins and Representative Adline Clarke team up against you, it's a sure bet that things aren't going to end well; and

WHEREAS, the main concern of opponents centered on the bill being a "one size fits all" fix when "one size fits all" rarely, if ever, applies to children or House members; and let's not forget what Representative Marcus Paramore pointed out just before the BIR failed; this bill would have made it impossible for him, Representative Leigh Hulsey, and Representative Susan DuBose to drive themselves to work; can you picture Leigh Hulsey sitting in a child restraint device; if the gentleman from Northport is open to suggestions, his proposal might stand a better chance next year if he takes a page from NASCAR's safety requirements; simply mandate children wear a helmet and a HANS device and be strapped in with a five-point locking harness; the legislation goes from a five-page bill to a two-page bill -



HR374 INTRODUCED

113 problem solved; now therefore,

114 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
115 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we invite Representative Ron
116 Bolton of Northport to come down to the "Winner's Circle" to
117 collect the Earl Mitchell Memorial Plaque as the winner of
118 the 2025 Goat Hill 105.