

HJR309 ENROLLED



1 HJR309

2 84BC72F-2

3 By Representatives Ledbetter, Lovvorn, Lee, Allbright, Baker,

4 Barnes, Bedsole, Blackshear, Bolton, Boyd, Bracy, Brinyark,

5 Brown, Butler, Carns, Chestnut, Clarke, Clouse, Collins,

6 Colvin, Crawford, Crow, Daniels, Datcher, Drummond, DuBose,

7 Easterbrook, Ellis, England, Ensler, Estes, Faulkner, Fidler,

8 Fincher, Forte, Garrett, Gidley, Givan, Givens, Gray, Hall,

9 Hammett, Harrison, Hassell, Hendrix, Holk-Jones, Hollis,

10 Hulsey, Hurst, Ingram, Jackson, Jones, Kiel, Kirkland, Lamb,

11 Lands, Lawrence, Lipscomb, Lomax, Marques, McCampbell,

12 McClammy, Mooney, Moore (M), Moore (P), Morris, Myrex, Nelson,

13 Oliver, Paramore, Paschal, Pettus, Pringle, Rafferty, Rehm,

14 Reynolds, Rigsby, Robbins, Robertson, Ross, Sellers, Sells,

15 Shaver, Shaw, Shirey, Simpson, Smith, Sorrells, Stadthagen,

16 Standridge, Starnes, Stringer, Stubbs, Tillman, Travis,

17 Treadaway, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Whitt, Whorton,

18 Wilcox, Wood (R), Yarbrough

19 RFD: RULES

20 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE JAMES EDWARD HILL, JR. ON HIS

4 ACCOMPLISHED CAREER OF SERVICE.

5

6 WHEREAS, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize

7 James Edward "Jim" Hill, Jr. for his exceptional career in

8 public service, encompassing many years of distinguished

9 service as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives

10 and as both a district judge and a circuit judge for the

11 Alabama 30th Judicial Circuit; and

12 WHEREAS, for more than three decades, Judge Hill has

13 demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the rule of law and

14 the fair administration of justice, earning the respect of

15 his colleagues, the legal profession, and his fellow

16 Alabamians; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Hill was born on February 26, 1950, in

18 Starkville, Mississippi; he earned a Bachelor of Science in

19 Economics from Mississippi State University and a Juris

20 Doctor from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law;

21 he was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1975; and

22 WHEREAS, Judge Hill has practiced law for over 50

23 years; before entering politics, Judge Hill enjoyed an

24 extensive legal career both in private practice and through

25 his service as a district judge and later as a circuit judge

26 for the Alabama 30th Judicial Circuit; during his time on

27 the bench, he was instrumental in the establishment of

28 several initiatives in St. Clair County, including an early



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29 warning system with local schools, the St. Clair Day Program
30 for juvenile offenders, the St. Clair Drug Court, and the
31 St. Clair Domestic Violence Program; and

32 WHEREAS, in addition to his service as a judge, he
33 served the state in numerous other capacities, notably as a
34 member of the Governor's Task Force on Prison Overcrowding
35 and the Alabama Juvenile and Family Court Judges
36 Association; after retiring from the bench in 2013, he
37 joined the law firm of Hill, Hill & Gossett, P.C., now Hill,
38 Gossett, Kemp, Barrentine & Seay, P.C., where he still
39 practices law with the firm of counsel and will continue to
40 do so as he departs the State House; and

41 WHEREAS, in 2013, Judge Hill announced his candidacy
42 for the House of Representatives District 50 and was elected
43 without opposition; he was reelected in 2018 and 2022; and,
44 as a testament to his reputation among his constituents, he
45 received a resounding 98.5 percent of the total votes cast
46 in the 2022 general election; and

47 WHEREAS, in the Legislature, Judge Hill has lent his
48 expertise to numerous committee assignments, including the
49 Ethics and Campaign Finance Committee and the Joint
50 Legislative Prison Committee; however, he is perhaps most
51 revered for his service as Chair of the House of
52 Representatives Judiciary Committee, a position he has held
53 since June 2017; as chair, he has earned the respect of
54 lawmakers of both parties for his even-handed, no-nonsense,
55 and principled leadership; drawing on his experience as a
56 judge, he has filled the role of umpire and referee over



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57 many memorable and contentious committee debates; he is
58 known for his wisdom, fairness, even temperament, and
59 ability to rise above partisan politics and cut to the meat
60 of an issue; he has often been heard throughout the State
61 House opining that "a good bill is a good bill," regardless
62 of the letter that appears behind the sponsor's name; and

63 WHEREAS, many of Judge Hill's legislative endeavors
64 have focused on the rule of law and the strength of the
65 judicial system; his accomplishments, though far too
66 numerous to name in this resolution, include major reforms
67 that have helped shape Alabama's criminal justice policy for
68 the better; some of his most notable legislative successes
69 include addressing split-sentencing authority for judges,
70 reforming juvenile sentencing to eliminate mandatory
71 life-without-parole sentences for juvenile offenders,
72 improving sentencing consistency under the Habitual Felony
73 Offender Act, strengthening reentry supervision to reduce
74 recidivism, expanding voter disqualification for certain
75 violent offenses, and establishing the Juvenile Justice
76 Reinvestment Fund; and

77 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Judge Hill has remained
78 deeply committed to civic, professional, and faith-based
79 service, generously giving of his time and leadership
80 experience to strengthen his community; in his ample free
81 time, he has held memberships and leadership positions in
82 numerous organizations, including as President of Leeds Area
83 Chamber of Commerce, board member of Moody Business
84 Association and Pell City Rotary Club, and member and office



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85 holder of the St. Clair County Gideons Association;
86 additionally, he is an active member of First Baptist
87 Church, where he has served as a Deacon and Sunday School
88 Teacher; and

89 WHEREAS, he readily concedes that his many
90 accomplishments would not have been possible without the
91 love, support, and constant encouragement of his wife,
92 Susan; they are the parents of two adult children, Judge
93 James E. Hill III and Elizabeth Hill Cheney, and
94 grandparents to three grandchildren; and

95 WHEREAS, Judge Hill is a faithful public servant, and
96 his presence in the State House will be missed; we sincerely
97 hope that in his retirement from the Legislature he enjoys
98 good health and immeasurable happiness and makes time to
99 watch plenty of baseball with his grandchildren; and

100 WHEREAS, this Legislature knows well that his
101 dedication to public service and the law will not end when
102 he crosses the threshold of the State House; rather, the
103 commendations within this resolution are given with the
104 knowledge that he will continue serving his fellow
105 Alabamians for many years to come; now therefore,

106 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
107 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this resolution is offered
108 to State Representative James E. Hill, Jr. in recognition of
109 his outstanding record of dedicated service to the people of
110 House District 50 and the State of Alabama and for his
111 invaluable contributions to the Legislature.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 31-Mar-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

09-Apr-26

Adopted