

HJR309 INTRODUCED



1 HJR309

2 84BC72F-1

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:

20 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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HJR___ COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE JAMES EDWARD HILL, JR. ON HIS ACCOMPLISHED CAREER OF SERVICE.

WHEREAS, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize James Edward "Jim" Hill, Jr. for his exceptional career in public service, encompassing many years of distinguished service as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives and as both a district judge and a circuit judge for the Alabama 30th Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, Judge Hill has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the fair administration of justice, earning the respect of his colleagues, the legal profession, and his fellow Alabamians; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hill was born on February 26, 1950, in Starkville, Mississippi; he earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Mississippi State University and a Juris Doctor from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law; he was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Judge Hill has practiced law for over 50 years; before entering politics, Judge Hill enjoyed an extensive legal career both in private practice and through his service as a district judge and later as a circuit judge for the Alabama 30th Judicial Circuit; during his time on the bench, he was instrumental in the establishment of



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29 several initiatives in St. Clair County, including an early
30 warning system with local schools, the St. Clair Day Program
31 for juvenile offenders, the St. Clair Drug Court, and the
32 St. Clair Domestic Violence Program; and

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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