

HR362 INTRODUCED



1 HR362
2 PSY9SRG-1
3 By Representative Bolton
4 RFD:
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HR_____ DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 SHROUD AWARD.

WHEREAS, it's that time once again, when we take a moment from this annual train wreck we call the Regular Session to bestow upon one of our members the most sought-after award in all of Christendom ... The Shroud Award ... for the deadest piece of legislation to be introduced in the House this year; and

WHEREAS, before we go any further, listen to this disclaimer ... The Shroud Award is all in fun and is never intended to hurt or insult anyone; so, whoever the 2026 recipient is, you should remember to take this with a smile; and

WHEREAS, with that said and my health insurance paid up for the next six months, let's move forward; and

WHEREAS, as has been the case for the past several years, candidates for The Shroud Award have been few and far between, and this year was no exception; in fact, serious consideration was given to not awarding the Shroud this year, but fortunately one member stepped up to the plate with a bill, took a mighty swing and, instead of knocking his bill out of the ballpark, this member knocked his bill upside its head; as the late comedian Jerry Clower once said, "He killed it graveyard dead," and it simply don't get any deader than that; and



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29 WHEREAS, the funny thing about this bill is its aim
30 was to save lives, the noblest of legislative efforts;
31 another thing is that this program had a self-destruct
32 clause to end it after one year; sounds pretty good, doesn't
33 it?; you hang on to that thought for a couple of minutes;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, sadly, the end for this bill began the
36 moment the sponsor came to the well and for six whole
37 minutes explained in detail about what the bill would do; it
38 was obviously an attempt to cut Representative Laura Hall
39 off at the pass; for the record, that attempt failed;
40 although Representative Hall would disagree with this, there
41 are times when a member can provide one too many details
42 about a bill; and

43 WHEREAS, in this particular case, there were two
44 details too many; one involved a fine, which the sponsor
45 insisted wasn't a fine but more like a contribution; the
46 other detail had to do with automated traffic cameras; a
47 fine and automated traffic cameras, that's legislative speak
48 for "Kiss of Death"; and

49 WHEREAS, yes, we're talking about HB583 the Alabama
50 Work Zone Safety Act by Representative Mike Kirkland of
51 District 23; and

52 WHEREAS, Representative Kirkland noted there simply
53 aren't enough Alabama State Troopers to work road
54 construction sites and that something needs to be done about
55 drivers speeding through construction zones to lower the
56 death and injury rates; and



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57 WHEREAS, the proposal wasn't a bad idea, and there's
58 a feeling that most, if not all, House members know
59 something needs to be done; Representative Kirkland's
60 explanation was going well, until he mentioned that
61 automated cameras would be used to take pictures of the tags
62 of violators and a copy of that photo would be sent along
63 with an invitation to the recipient to make a mandatory \$250
64 contribution to the state's coffers; and

65 WHEREAS, you'd have thought he had unleashed the
66 Forces of Darkness on this chamber; and

67 WHEREAS, Representative Kirkland might have been
68 better off coming with a bill that would have simply placed
69 large signs two miles and one mile away from the
70 construction zone with a warning in large red letters that
71 speeding through the upcoming construction work zone will
72 result in a mandatory \$25,000 fine and six months in jail;
73 and

74 WHEREAS, you wouldn't need any cameras; drivers would
75 slow down like they were going through a school zone (and
76 that fine plus jail time should probably also be used in a
77 few school zones); and

78 WHEREAS, it's too bad that Representative Kirkland
79 didn't put as much time into counting votes as he did
80 writing this bill; and

81 WHEREAS, the BIR failed; even so, Rep. Kirkland
82 seemed to become possessed by the spirit of Rear Admiral
83 David Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay, "Dang the BIR!
84 Full speed ahead," because he calmly moved for consideration



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85 of the substitute as if the BIR hadn't failed; and

86 WHEREAS, even Speaker Ledbetter thought that was a
87 pretty slick move; and

88 WHEREAS, you'd think that was the end of the Alabama
89 Work Zone Safety Act for 2026 - not by a long shot;
90 apparently, Representative Kirkland has more friends on the
91 House Rules Committee than Bayer has aspirin; he convinced
92 them to put the Senate companion bill on the Special Order
93 Calendar; considering his House bill was shot down like a
94 rabid dog, most people might have tried a different approach
95 in selling the Senate version of the bill; and

96 WHEREAS, not Representative Kirkland; he comes back
97 with virtually the same presentation; it worked about as
98 well as it did the first time with one exception; and

99 WHEREAS, this time it brought Representative Jim Hill
100 to the well who proceeded to unload on the Senate bill; he
101 invoked the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as
102 well as truth, justice, and the American way; the only thing
103 Judge Hill didn't do was rip open his shirt to expose his
104 blue union suit and a big "S" on his chest; and

105 WHEREAS, this time the BIR passed comfortably; the
106 Senate version appeared on its way to final passage when
107 "Super Judge" returned to the well, this time with an
108 amendment that removed the \$250 fine, contribution, civic
109 surcharge, or whatever you want to call it; and

110 WHEREAS, the amendment was approved and the House
111 passed the Senate bill; most members would have been happy;
112 Representative Kirkland looked as though someone had dropped



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113 a live hand grenade down his britches; and

114 WHEREAS, the bill was then returned to the
115 compassionate and all-forgiving House of Lords on the
116 seventh floor; now therefore,

117 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
118 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we ask that Rep. Mike Kirkland
119 of Jackson County to come back to the well of the House for
120 a much warmer welcome and receive the love and admiration of
121 his House colleagues for his hard work and dedication in
122 pushing the Alabama Work Zone Safety Act and receive the
123 2026 Shroud Award for HB583.