

1 HJR311  
2 170218-1  
3 By Representatives Davis and Faust  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 28-MAY-15

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF JEFFREY WAYNE RIDGEWAY.

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10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we mourn  
11 the death of Mr. Jeffrey Wayne Ridgeway of Athens, Alabama,  
12 who passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2015, at the age of 50  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, born December 2, 1964, Mr. Ridgeway was  
15 born with a heart defect and other disabilities, but in spite  
16 of his difficulties he became a strong and lifelong advocate  
17 for employment rights for persons with disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, known by many state legislators but a  
19 household name with the Mobile County Delegation, Mr. Ridgeway  
20 tirelessly worked to increase employment opportunities for  
21 persons with disabilities, taking legendary bus rides to and  
22 from Montgomery; his belief was that "a person with a  
23 disability will give you an honest day's work for an honest  
24 dollar," and that "everybody deserves a shot;" and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Ridgeway was a past president of People  
26 First, an advocacy group comprised of persons with  
27 disabilities; he served on numerous committees over the years

1 at the Department of Mental Health, where his wisdom and input  
2 were always welcome and appreciated; and

3 WHEREAS, a graduate of West Limestone High School in  
4 1983, Mr. Ridgeway moved to Mobile after his mother's passing  
5 and began working at Goodwill to prove he could succeed in  
6 competitive employment; after two years he was hired at the  
7 Azalea Road Bruno's and worked his way through a host of jobs,  
8 becoming known as an especially dependable employee; he  
9 continued there until he was advised by his physician to  
10 discontinue manual labor because of his increasingly failing  
11 heart; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Ridgeway was preceded in death by his  
13 mother, Wanda Tucker Ridgeway, and his stepmother, Pat  
14 Ridgeway; he leaves to cherish his memory his father, Fletcher  
15 (Carolyn) Ridgeway, one brother, Joey (Sharon) Ridgeway, two  
16 sisters, Dana (Michael) Moody and Jessica (Trent) Henson,  
17 three step-brothers, six nieces, and three nephews; and

18 WHEREAS, he demonstrated the same hard work in his  
19 employment and in his advocacy for others with disabilities;  
20 his friends acknowledge he could be hard to get along with,  
21 but it was precisely that tenacity that allowed him to succeed  
22 in his life's mission of awareness and advocacy for the  
23 employment of persons with disabilities; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we record with deep sadness  
26 the death of Mr. Jeffrey Wayne Ridgeway, and by copy of this

1 resolution we offer our heartfelt sympathy to his family and  
2 friends, whose grief is shared by many.