

HR65 INTRODUCED



1 HR65

2 D4A3NNN-1

3 By Representatives Jackson, Warren, Drummond, Ensler, Hollis,

4 Rafferty, Hendrix, Lawrence, Travis, Sellers, McCampbell,

5 Clarke, England, Hall, Morris

6 RFD: RULES

7 First Read: 27-Feb-24



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HR_____ URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM
ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT EXECUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the death penalty is a complicated and
complex issue for both moral reasons and because the
practice is greatly flawed; the appropriate resolution is a
moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama is proudly a pro-life
state and passionately defends the right to life; this
passion for preserving life should extend to each and every
citizen; a society that values life should not deliberately
kill human beings; there is no moral ambiguity concerning
the death penalty as a legal execution is still the murder
of a human life; and

WHEREAS, Alabama sentences more people to death per
capita than any other state; we have consistently lagged
behind other states in revising outdated laws and procedures
that govern sentencing; Alabama was the last state to
abolish judicial override and used it to sentence more
people to death than any other state; Alabama continues to
allow death sentences to be imposed even when jury verdicts
are not unanimous; currently, an alarming 80 percent of
people sentenced to Alabama's death row did not receive
unanimous jury verdicts; and



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29 WHEREAS, since 1976, Alabama has executed 73 people
30 and exonerated nine which illustrates that for every eight
31 people executed, one has been exonerated; in death penalty
32 cases, perjury, false accusations, and official misconduct
33 are the leading causes of wrongful convictions; further, a
34 person does not need to be innocent to be wrongly sentenced
35 to death; in Alabama, over 160 death sentences have been
36 invalidated by state and federal courts, resulting in
37 conviction of a lesser offense or lesser sentence on
38 retrial; and

39 WHEREAS, other problems regarding death penalty
40 convictions include potential failure to ensure that these
41 cases are administered fairly and impartially in accordance
42 with due process, the disproportionate number of minorities
43 who are sentenced to death, the failure of the state to
44 provide competent counsel to minorities and indigent people
45 in capital cases, and evidence that the punishment of death
46 is not an effective deterrent against criminal behavior; and

47 WHEREAS, 23 states have abolished the death penalty;
48 six additional states have a gubernatorial hold on
49 executions; and the federal government has declared a hold
50 on executions pending review of policies and procedures; now
51 therefore,

52 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
53 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the possibility of taking even
54 one innocent life is too great a risk for the state to take
55 and a moratorium on executions would relieve that risk; the



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56 Legislature is urged to take this matter into consideration
57 and declare a moratorium on capital punishment executions.