

# ACT No. 2011 - 175

HJR194

127665-2

By Representatives Grimsley, Ball, Melton, England, Holmes,  
Colston and Mitchell

RFD: Rules

First Read: 24-MAR-11



1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA'S  
4 INVOLVEMENT IN THE FAILURE TO PROSECUTE CRIMES COMMITTED  
5 AGAINST RECY TAYLOR.  
6

7 WHEREAS, on September 3, 1944, in the small Town of  
8 Abbeville, Alabama, Recy Taylor, a young Black mother was  
9 walking home from church with her companions when she was  
10 confronted by a car of seven white men; the men forced Ms.  
11 Taylor into the car at knife and gunpoint, drove off, and six  
12 of the seven men brutally raped her in a deserted grove of  
13 pine trees; and

14 WHEREAS, Taylor's younger brother, Robert Corbitt,  
15 of Abbeville, said he remembers the day his sister was raped  
16 67 years ago like it was yesterday, saying the police tried to  
17 blame his sister, and the family was harassed so that he was  
18 not allowed to play in the front yard; and

19 WHEREAS, an all white, all male grand jury failed to  
20 bring any charges for indictment; and then Governor Chauncey  
21 Sparks ordered a second investigation, and the grand jury  
22 again failed to indict; and

23 WHEREAS, the case got the attention of NAACP  
24 activist Rosa Parks, who interviewed Taylor in 1944 in  
25 Abbeville and later recruited other activists to create the  
26 "Alabama Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor";  
27 and

1           WHEREAS, in an interview last year with the AP, Recy  
2 Taylor, who now resides in Florida, said she eventually gave  
3 up trying to bring charges against the men; and

4           WHEREAS, this deplorable lack of justice remains a  
5 source of shame for all Alabamians; now therefore,

6           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we acknowledge the lack of  
8 prosecution for crimes committed against Recy Taylor by the  
9 government of the State of Alabama, that we declare such  
10 failure to act was, and is, morally abhorrent and repugnant,  
11 and that we do hereby express profound regret for the role  
12 played by the government of the State of Alabama in failing to  
13 prosecute the crimes.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest  
15 sympathies and solemn regrets to Recy Taylor and her family  
16 and friends.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the specific  
18 intent of the Legislature that reparations shall not be  
19 considered or made regarding past actions of the government of  
20 the State of Alabama concerning the lack of prosecution of the  
21 crimes committed against Recy Taylor, and that this resolution  
22 shall not be used or construed in any manner whatsoever as  
23 support for such reparations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Kay Ivey*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 29-MAR-11.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
21-APR-11

Adopted

APPROVED *April 28, 2011*  
TIME *10:35 am*  
*Robert Bentley*  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State

Act Num....: 2011-175  
Bill Num...: HJR-194

Recv'd 04/28/11 02:34pm JJB