

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Jackson (11th),
Simmons (13th), Frazier, Thomas, Horhn,
Butler (36th), Jordan, Turner-Ford, Simmons
(12th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 523

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR THE ROLE MISSISSIPPI
2 PLAYED IN THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL AND THE ACQUITTAL OF HIS
3 KILLERS.

4 WHEREAS, on August 28, 1955, Emmett Till, a 14-year old
5 African-American teenager from Argo, Illinois, who was visiting
6 his great-uncle in Money, Mississippi, found himself the target of
7 false implications, which ultimately resulted in his kidnapping,
8 bludgeoning, and brutal murder; and

9 WHEREAS, after Till's beaten, broken, disfigured and drenched
10 body was recovered from the Tallahatchie River, it was returned to
11 Illinois, where his mother, Mamie Till Bradley, insisted on an
12 open casket so that the world could witness the horrendous nature
13 of her son's killing; and

14 WHEREAS, in light of Carolyn Bryant's recent confession that
15 her inflammatory story, which led to the death of young Emmett
16 Till, was fabricated, Mississippi must now apologize for creating
17 an environment conducive to the torture and murder of Emmett Till,



18 the crime's defense by many Mississippi citizens and leaders, and
19 the shameful acquittal of the murderers; and

20 WHEREAS, the principles espoused by the founding fathers
21 would be affirmed, great strides toward unifying all
22 Mississippians and inspiring the nation would be accomplished if
23 our state acknowledged its role in the murder of Emmett Till and
24 the acquittal of his killers:

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
26 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
27 we express our profound regret for the State of Mississippi's role
28 in providing an environment of hostile beliefs and ideologies that
29 led to the horrific, unnecessary murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till
30 and offer our apologies for the part Mississippi played in
31 acquitting his murderers, and we express deepest sympathy and
32 solemn regrets to Emmett Till's family for depriving him of his
33 life, human dignity and those constitutional protections meant to
34 be accorded to all citizens of the United States, and we encourage
35 the remembrance and teachings about the history of the Civil
36 Rights Movement, particularly that of Emmett Till's cruel death
37 and legacy of injustice, to ensure such tragedies will neither be
38 forgotten nor repeated.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the intent of the Senate
40 and House of Representatives that this resolution shall not be
41 used in, or be the basis of, any type of litigation.



42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be furnished to
43 each state-elected official of Mississippi; the Commissioner of
44 Institutions of Higher Learning; the President of the National
45 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mississippi
46 Chapter; and the Director of the Southern Christian Leadership
47 Conference, Mississippi Chapter, requesting that they further
48 disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective
49 constituents so as to apprise them of the sense of regret the
50 Mississippi Legislature feels in this matter; and to the members
51 of the Capitol Press Corps.

