

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Thomas, Simmons  
(13th), Brumfield

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

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 fourteen-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, and 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.

