

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 596

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 25, 2007, AS
2 "MISSISSIPPI MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY" TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE
3 ISSUE OF MISSING CHILDREN.

4 WHEREAS, each year hundreds of thousands of American families
5 are confronted with a unique tragedy -- a missing child. While
6 most of these children return home safely, far too many are
7 exposed to serious danger and exploitation. Often the child's
8 fate is never known. During the child's disappearance, the family
9 faces an ordeal of imagined horrors and unknown consequences.
10 Finding and safely returning these children to their homes has
11 become a national concern; and

12 WHEREAS, the date of May 25 has particular significance in
13 the cause of missing children. On that day in 1979, six year old
14 Etan Patz disappeared from his home in New York City.
15 Unfortunately, Etan was never found. His brave parents fought to
16 increase our awareness of this tragedy and to improve the agencies
17 that work to solve this unique type of crime. On May 25, 1983,
18 President Ronald Reagan issued a Proclamation declaring "National
19 Missing Children's Day" to direct national resources and efforts
20 to this worthy goal; and

21 WHEREAS, our children are Mississippi's most valuable and
22 most vulnerable asset. They are our link to the future, our hope
23 for a better life. Their protection and safety must be one of our
24 highest priorities; and

25 WHEREAS, the striking mobility of our society has created
26 special difficulties for the law enforcement agencies that must
27 deal with crimes involving children, particularly so in the wake

28 of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The solution to this
29 problem demands the attention and cooperation of all our law
30 enforcement agencies, city, state, and local; and

31 WHEREAS, the tragedies of missing children and others exposes
32 a fundamental flaw. There is no coordinated effort between
33 federal, state, and local law enforcement; no national response
34 system in place; and no central resource to help searching
35 families. When it comes to handling missing-children cases, the
36 United States is a nation of 50 states often acting like 50
37 separate countries; and

38 WHEREAS, Mississippi stands today as a state of optimism, a
39 state of enduring possibilities. It is a state where we work
40 relentlessly, furthering the excellence of tomorrow; excellence
41 that will be nurtured through our children-tomorrow's potential
42 and our brightest promise for the future:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby (a) designate May 25, 2007, as "Mississippi Missing
46 Children's Day" to bring and increase awareness of the issue of
47 missing children, (b) urge officials at all levels of Mississippi
48 government to take decisive action to ensure the safety and
49 protection of the children in their respective jurisdictions, (c)
50 urge all our law enforcement agencies to take particular notice of
51 the danger that threatens any child who has lost his or her home,
52 and (d) urge every Mississippi family to take the proper
53 precautions to protect their children.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
55 the Department of Human Services for dissemination to the
56 appropriate missing children advocacy groups and recovery centers
57 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.