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**ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL WELCOMES ALABAMA HOUSE
PASSAGE OF FAIR JUSTICE ACT, STREAMLINING DEATH ROW APPEALS**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall thanked the Alabama House of Representatives for passing the Fair Justice Act (SB187) Tuesday to streamline Alabama’s decades-long death row appeals process.

“I appreciate Rep. Lynn Greer's effort in guiding the Fair Justice Act through the House,” said Attorney General Marshall. “There is no doubt that Alabama’s system for reviewing capital cases is inefficient and in need of repair. The average death row inmate appeal time is over 15 years and rising.

“Each year that these appeals drag on, the general public is further removed from and even desensitized to the horrendous crimes that led to the sentences of every individual on death row. But, for the families of victims, the pain is not numbed with the passing of years. The endless appeals process reopens their wounds again and again.

“The Alabama House deserves much credit for passing the Fair Justice Act to streamline lengthy death row appeals. This legislation is about justice, and justice should be fair and swift. The Fair Justice Act takes nothing away from a death row inmate in terms of the courts reviewing his case, but streamlines the appellate process so that the direct appeal and the state post-conviction stage occur simultaneously.

“Lawmakers in both the House and Senate should be applauded for working to find a solution to extended death row appeals which delay justice.”

The Fair Justice Act, which is supported by the Alabama Attorney General’s Office, also passed the Alabama Senate on April 18, 2017.

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