

NEWS ADVISORY
Luther Strange
Alabama Attorney General



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For More Information, contact:
Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199
Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491
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**ATTORNEY GENERAL LUTHER STRANGE VOICES SUPPORT FOR ALABAMA HOUSE BILLS
PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange voiced support for three bills introduced in the Alabama Legislature during the current special session which provide tougher penalties for crimes committed against law enforcement officers.

“Law enforcement stand watch against threats and face danger every day in order to keep us safe,” said Attorney General Strange. “They have our backs and it is important to show them that we have theirs.

“These bills introduced in the Alabama House demonstrate Alabama’s support for our law enforcement by increasing the penalties for violent crimes committed against them and I urge lawmakers to ensure they pass.”

The three pro law enforcement bills supported by Attorney General Strange are as follows:

HB 48 – Introduced Rep. Chris Sell

The bill adds two aggravating circumstances (murder where the victim is a law enforcement officer and murder where the victim is a child under the age of 14) to the list of statutory aggravating circumstances that make a defendant eligible for the death penalty. The bill adds the language from two existing capital offenses to make corresponding aggravating circumstances consistent with these capital offenses.

HB 49 – Introduced Rep. Connie Rowe

The bill provides stiffer penalties for crimes against law enforcement officers and provides for a pay raise for ALEA officers. It makes the crime of Assault in the Second Degree a Class B felony, when a person causes a physical injury with the intent of preventing a law enforcement officer from performing a lawful duty. Currently, Assault in the Second Degree is a Class C felony (Assault in the First Degree is a Class B felony).

HB 52 – Introduced by Rep. Phillip Pettus

The bill expands the definition of hate crimes to include victims who are employed or perceived as employed as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, or rescue squad member.

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501 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104 • (334) 242-7300

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