

May 26, 2017

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AG MARSHALL CALLS SIGNING OF FAIR JUSTICE ACT AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR VICTIMS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall said the Governor’s signing today of the Fair Justice Act is an important victory for victims of violent crime in Alabama and for efficiency in the death penalty appeals process.

“I want to thank Governor Kay Ivey for signing this bill into law, so that justice may be dispensed in Alabama as it should be, in a fair and swift manner,” said Attorney General Marshall. “The enactment of this law is the result of a dedicated and collaborative effort between my office, local prosecutors, victims’ groups, and the Legislature. Our collective experiences with capital cases compelled us to pursue an improved appeals process for our state – one that is fairer, more efficient, and does not prolong the suffering of victims, but provides justice to all parties.”

Attorney General Marshall noted that the Fair Justice Act “does not diminish the thoroughness of appellate review of death penalty cases, but simply streamlines the appellate process so that the direct appeal and the state post-conviction stage occur simultaneously.”

Governor Ivey stated, “The Fair Justice Act strikes an important balance between protecting the rights of a defendant and the state’s interest in allowing justice to be achieved effectively and swiftly.”

The Fair Justice Act passed the Alabama House of Representatives on May 16 and received final approval in the Senate on May 18. It was signed into law today by Governor Ivey.

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