## NEWS ADVISORY Steve Marshall 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 STEVE MARSHALL JOINS ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN ANNOUNCING INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION STRENGTHENING THE ALABAMA ETHICS ACT

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall joined Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, House Speaker Mac McCutcheon, Senator Arthur Orr, Representative Mike Jones, and Ethics Commission Director Tom Albritton Thursday morning in announcing the introduction of legislation strengthening the Alabama Ethics Act (SB 343).

"After nearly two years of work and the input from many around the state, I am pleased to join with the Legislative leadership in announcing the introduction of legislation to improve the Alabama Ethics Act," said Attorney General Marshall. "The updated Ethics Act, which was written with direct input from the Attorney General's Office, is meant to strengthen and add further clarity to the current Alabama ethics law passed in 2010."

The updated Alabama Ethics Act will bolster the present ethics law while achieving three important goals:

- 1.) Encourage honest people to serve in government by defining the line between legal and illegal activity.
- 2.) Create a clear and definite process through which people serving in government can obtain guidance regarding whether a particular situation falls on that line.
- 3.) Ensure that those persons who violate the public's trust are held accountable.

"My office had a strong hand in the writing of this bill, but we didn't do it alone," added Attorney General Marshall. "I am very appreciative of Senator Del Marsh and Speaker Mac McCutcheon for their invaluable assistance in bringing our draft ethics bill before the Legislature. I am also very appreciative of the Ethics Commission staff and the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services for their invaluable input."

The ethics reform legislation will be reviewed by a newly-created Ethics Clarification and Reform Commission.

An annotated copy of proposed changes to the Alabama Ethics Act is linked here.



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