

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG ANNOUNCES HOUSE PASSAGE OF ANTI-LOOTING BILL & LEGISLATION TO PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT & ALABAMIANS FROM SHAM LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the House of Representatives today approved his anti-looting bill as well as legislation to protect law enforcement and Alabamians from sham legal proceedings. Both of these bills are included in his legislative package.

HB 340 (the anti-looting bill) sponsored by Rep. John Merrill passed the House 102-0. Attorney General Strange advocated this tough law to specifically criminalize looting and provide strong penalties in the wake of the tragic tornadoes that have recently devastated Alabama.

“I am pleased that the House has acted to protect Alabamians in times of severe disaster and crisis,” said Attorney General Strange. “When people are experiencing destruction of property, serious injuries and perhaps even the loss of loved ones, it has been appalling to see criminal activity take advantage of a tragedy by looting what may be left of a business’s inventory or the belongings from someone's home. It became all too evident that Alabama needs a stronger law to protect our citizens at just such times when they are suffering and vulnerable. The law we offer would apply in other times of emergency such as the hurricanes that frequently strike our Gulf Coast.”

HB 99 which defines a sham legal process and sponsored by Rep. Randy Wood passed the House 97-0. Attorney General Strange included HB 99 in his legislative package upon the recommendation of members of law enforcement who had been intimidated or hindered in the discharge of their duties.

“This issue has been recognized as a major problem in our state that has the potential to grow to disastrous proportions. We have heard from all sectors of law enforcement in support of HB 99 and are pleased with today’s vote in the House,” said Attorney General Strange.

Attorney General Strange commended the outstanding leadership of Representative John Merrill and Representative Randy Wood in achieving approval by the House of Representatives and urges members of the Alabama Senate to join the House in speedy passage of these bills.

