

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4301

A RESOLUTION URGING JEFFERSON COUNTY DELEGATES TO THE ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT AND TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO PASS THE ALABAMA FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED COUNTIES ACT.

WHEREAS, the government of Jefferson County, Alabama is facing a fiscal crisis which severely jeopardizes services to residents of the county and imposes serious financial burdens on the county's municipalities, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County's significant revenue shortfall results from a 2010 judicial ruling that its occupational tax was unconstitutional because the Alabama Legislature improperly advertised the enabling legislation, and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling that the Alabama Legislature improperly advertised the enabling legislation, and

WHEREAS, the current Jefferson County Commission has worked diligently to trim operational costs and increase efficiencies by hiring a county manager, reducing more than 800 personnel positions, selling the county nursing home, and increasing budgetary accountability, and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commission in January, 2012 requested the Alabama Legislature to reinstate the occupational tax, which had been generating \$66 million per year for county operations, and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Senate has passed SB 567, the Alabama Financially Distressed Counties Act, which will generate as much as \$62 million annually for Jefferson County operations, and

WHEREAS, this statewide legislation is awaiting action in the Alabama House of Representatives, and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Jefferson County local delegation will have significant impact on the outcome of the House vote, as other state representatives look to follow their lead, and

WHEREAS, it is reported that certain local legislators are actively working against the bill in conjunction with legislators from outside Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS, the Vestavia Hills City Council is dismayed by these reports and believes that passage of the bill is essential to the provision of county services to our residents, to the financial well-being of our municipality, and to local economic development, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA urges Jefferson County's delegation to unite in support of the Senate's Alabama Financially Distressed Counties Act and to take all steps necessary to ensure its passage, without amendment, in the Alabama House of Representatives.

This Resolution Number 4301 shall become effective immediately upon adoption and approval.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this the 14th day of May, 2012.

Mary Lee Rice
Council President

ATTESTED:

Rebecca Leavings
City Clerk

APPROVED BY:

Alberto C. Zaragoza, Jr.
Mayor