

[Floor Situation](#) | [Summary](#) | [Background](#) | [Cost](#) | [Staff Contact](#)

[H.R. 172, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.”](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 172](#), *to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse,”* under suspension of the rules. H.R. 172 was introduced on January 6, 2015, by Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which ordered the bill reported, by voice vote, on April 15, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 172 designates the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.”

BACKGROUND

Mr. R. Jess Brown was a civil rights lawyer who worked against segregationist laws and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights suit in Mississippi. Mr. Brown, a native of Muskogee, Oklahoma, attended Illinois State University, Indiana University, and the Texas Southern University Law School. In the 1960s, he was one of only four African-American lawyers in Mississippi, and one of three who took civil rights cases. In 1962, he worked on behalf of James Meredith, whose successful lawsuit allowed him to be the first African-American student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Brown worked with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund to fight discrimination in transportation and other public accommodations in the 1960s. Mr. Brown died on December 31, 1989.¹ The House passed an identical bill (H.R. 579) by voice vote on December 8, 2014, during the 113th Congress.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 172 would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

¹ [House Report 113-233](#) at 2.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Jerry White](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 5-0190.