

1 HB522
2 137918-1
3 By Representative Mitchell
4 RFD: Internal Affairs
5 First Read: 14-MAR-12

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama Legislature
9 does not maintain a legislative record concerning
10 certain matters related to the legislative process.

11 This bill would require the Clerk of the
12 Alabama House of Representatives and the Secretary
13 of the Senate to establish procedures to implement
14 and maintain a legislative record concerning
15 matters related to the legislative process.

16
17 A BILL
18 TO BE ENTITLED
19 AN ACT
20

21 To require the Clerk of the Alabama House of
22 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to establish
23 procedures to implement and maintain a legislative record
24 concerning matters related to the legislative process.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. (a) The Clerk of the Alabama House of
27 Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate shall

1 establish procedures to implement and maintain a legislative
2 record concerning matters related to the legislative process.

3 (b) The legislative record shall include, but is not
4 limited to, a verbatim copy of discussions in committee
5 meetings, committee reports, committee votes, floor debates,
6 discussions during public hearings, insertion of statements
7 into the record by individual members as to why the member
8 voted for or against an instrument or took a particular
9 action, and insertion of other materials upon the request of a
10 member.

11 (c) The legislative record may be included as a part
12 of the journal, as a separate publication, or in a separate
13 digital or computer form. The legislative record may be
14 similar in form and content to the U.S. Congressional Record.

15 (d) In establishing the legislative record, the
16 Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the
17 Senate shall consider all of the following factors:

18 (1) Cost effectiveness and feasibility.

19 (2) Accessibility and availability.

20 (3) Usefulness.

21 (4) Accuracy.

22 (5) Ability to fulfill historical preservation
23 purposes.

24 (e) The clerk and secretary, within a reasonable
25 time after the adjournment sine die of a session of the
26 Legislature, shall compile, index, and publish the legislative

1 record. The clerk and secretary may also publish the
2 legislative record at shorter intervals.

3 (f) The clerk and secretary may charge a reasonable
4 fee for the legislative record, the proceeds of which shall be
5 used to defray costs of such publication.

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.