

1 HJR363  
2 139919-1  
3 By Representatives Wren and Galliher  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 10-APR-12

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8                   CREATING THE PERMANENT JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
9 ON MEDICAID POLICY

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11                   WHEREAS, funding to the Alabama Medicaid Agency is  
12 paramount to Medicaid eligibles receiving services and to the  
13 State of Alabama's financial future; and

14                   WHEREAS, reliable and affordable Medicaid services  
15 is of great importance to all sectors of Alabama's economy;  
16 and

17                   WHEREAS, long-term sustainability of Medicaid  
18 services is becoming increasingly important to Alabama's  
19 population; and

20                   WHEREAS, the future medical needs for Medicaid  
21 recipients of the State present opportunities to diversify the  
22 State's health care and provide new opportunities for  
23 coordination between health care related state agencies and  
24 programs; and

25                   WHEREAS, the use of existing programs and  
26 development of new programs should be encouraged as ways of

1 reducing costs to the Alabama Medicaid Agency and continuing  
2 to provide services to Medicaid eligibles; and

3 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that an  
4 integrated and comprehensive state policy on the Alabama  
5 Medicaid Program is necessary to address the future health  
6 care needs and costs to the State; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Permanent Joint  
9 Legislative Committee on Medicaid Policy is created for the  
10 purpose of developing recommendations to the Governor and the  
11 Legislature to address the State's long-term and short-term  
12 Medicaid challenges. The Committee shall be composed of  
13 fourteen members as follows:

14 The Chair of the House Committee on Health; the  
15 Chair of the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee; the  
16 Chair of the Senate Committee on Health; the Chair of the  
17 Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation General Fund; five  
18 members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives; two members of the Senate appointed by the  
20 Lieutenant Governor; and three members of the Senate appointed  
21 by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

22 The Committee shall make a continuous study of the  
23 Alabama Medicaid Program and make recommendations for  
24 legislation and initiatives that will create the necessary  
25 statutory, regulatory, and institutional changes to accomplish  
26 the overall goals and objectives of the Alabama Medicaid Plan  
27 in a manner that benefits the State and protects Medicaid

1 recipients. The Committee shall seek direct involvement with  
2 the State Health Officer in its study of the Alabama Medicaid  
3 Program. The Committee may also engage existing universities  
4 in the State of Alabama for support and research activities as  
5 they pertain to the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Alabama  
6 Medicaid Plan.

7 The Alabama Medicaid Plan shall be designed to  
8 achieve the following goals and objectives:

9 (a) The expansion of existing programs and  
10 implementation of new programs to meet the Alabama Medicaid  
11 Agency's current and future health care and funding needs,  
12 through:

13 (1) Encouraging effective strategies to avoid  
14 decreases in eligibility due to funding shortages;

15 (2) Promoting existing programs and new programs to  
16 realize cost savings to the Agency;

17 (3) Expanding existing programs within the Agency  
18 that have proven to provide cost effective high quality care.

19 (b) The development of coordinated care programs,  
20 through:

21 (1) Identification and promotion of proven  
22 coordinated care programs in other states' Medicaid programs;

23 (2) Incorporating coordinated care programs in the  
24 Alabama Medicaid Agency.

25 The Alabama Medicaid Plan shall include for each  
26 goal and objective:

1                   (1) An identification of actions already in  
2 progress;

3                   (2) A prioritized list of recommended  
4 non-legislative action items;

5                   (3) Recommended legislative proposals; and

6                   (4) An identification of areas on which further  
7 evaluation or research is recommended.

8                   The Committee shall submit its recommendations by  
9 the fifth legislative day of the 2013 Regular Session and by  
10 the fifth legislative day of each Regular Session thereafter.  
11 The initial recommendations from the Committee shall address  
12 cost saving strategies and effective coordinated care programs  
13 for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The Committee may make  
14 additional recommendations and submit studies and reports to  
15 the Legislature at any time.

16                   The Chair of the Committee shall create and appoint  
17 members to advisory committees, which shall include members of  
18 the Committee, representatives from governmental agencies, and  
19 members of the public with interest and expertise in the  
20 objectives of the Committee. The Commissioner of the Alabama  
21 Medicaid Agency, or his or her designee, shall be a member of  
22 each advisory committee created. Each advisory committee shall  
23 be chaired by a member of the advisory committee who shall be  
24 elected by the members of the advisory committee, appointed by  
25 the Chair of the Committee. The Alabama Medicaid Agency and  
26 the Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency may make

1 recommendations to the Chair of the Committee for appointments  
2 of members to each advisory committee.

3 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
4 set the date of the first meeting of the Committee, at which a  
5 chair and vice chair of the Committee shall be elected by the  
6 members of the Committee. The Committee shall thereafter meet  
7 at the call of the chair or any majority of the members  
8 thereof; provided, that the Committee shall meet at least once  
9 each four months. The Committee shall have a continuing  
10 existence and may meet, act, and conduct its business at any  
11 place within this state during the sessions of the Legislature  
12 or any recess thereof, and in the interim period between  
13 sessions. The Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House  
14 of Representatives, and the advisory committees created herein  
15 shall provide any assistance as may be necessary at the  
16 Committee's request. Each member of the Committee shall be  
17 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his  
18 or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she  
19 attends a meeting of the Committee, which shall be paid out of  
20 any funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature, upon  
21 warrants drawn by the State Comptroller, upon requisitions  
22 signed by the Committee's chair; provided however, that  
23 members shall not receive additional legislative compensation  
24 or per diem when the Legislature is in session or if a member  
25 is being paid any other payments on the same dates for  
26 attendance on other state business. Annual expenses and  
27 compensation of the Committee shall not exceed \$5,000. To the

1 extent possible, members of both the Legislative and the  
2 advisory committees shall reflect the racial, ethnic, gender,  
3 geographic, urban/rural and economic diversity of the State.