

1 SJR10
2 147761-1
3 By Senators Holtzclaw, McGill, Sanford, Bussman, Fielding,
4 Waggoner, Ward, Brewbaker, Bedford, Taylor, Scofield,
5 Williams, Whatley, Reed and Allen
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 06-FEB-13

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8 AFFIRMING THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT 448 OF
9 THE CONSTITUTION OF ALABAMA OF 1901, KNOWN AS THE BUDGET
10 ISOLATION AMENDMENT.
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12 WHEREAS, the adoption of Amendment 448 of the
13 Constitution of Alabama of 1901 by the people of Alabama in
14 1984 affirmed that the paramount duty of the Legislature is to
15 make basic appropriations during regular sessions, ensuring
16 that the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative, and
17 judicial departments of the state, for payment of the public
18 debt, and for education, shall be the first order of business
19 before any other matter; and

20 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 requires the Governor to
21 submit budget proposals to the House of Representatives and
22 Senate for consideration no later than the second legislative
23 day; and

24 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 requires that before any
25 single bill, local or general, may be transmitted from one
26 chamber to the other, that the House and Senate shall pass the
27 budgets and that those budgets be signed by the presiding

1 officers of each house of the Legislature and that they be
2 presented to the Governor; and

3 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 contains a provision,
4 commonly known as the Bill Isolation Resolution or BIR, by
5 which an exception is allowed to temporarily set aside the
6 budget isolation requirement established by Amendment 448 upon
7 a three-fifths vote of the House or Senate by resolution,
8 declaring that the provisions shall not applicable to a bill
9 specified in the resolution by number and title; and

10 WHEREAS, in recent years application of the BIR has
11 become commonplace in nature resulting in the Legislature
12 paying little heed to the mandate of Amendment 448, that the
13 budgets shall be prioritized before all other legislation; and

14 WHEREAS, in recent Legislative sessions, passage of
15 the budgets did not occur until the final days or hours of the
16 legislative session; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That beginning with the 2013
19 Regular Session and sessions following, we reaffirm our
20 commitment to the people's will, ardently expressed in their
21 passage of Amendment 448, and acknowledge our paramount duty
22 of passing the budgets in a timely manner and that our actions
23 will promote accountability and budget transparency through
24 embracing the spirit and intent of the Budget Isolation
25 Amendment.