

1 SR94
2 159936-1
3 By Senators Coleman, Dunn, Ward, Irons, Beasley and Ross
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-MAR-14

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8 REQUESTING ALABAMA DISABILITY LEADERSHIP COALITION
9 TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE ON FAMILY CAREGIVING.

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11 WHEREAS, the population of the state that is 85
12 years of age or older and most likely to need caregiving
13 assistance is projected to reach one million in the next
14 decade; and

15 WHEREAS, almost all people who need assistance with
16 activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and
17 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, providing services and support in homes and
19 communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home
20 care; and

21 WHEREAS, people who receive services from caregivers
22 in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living
25 in the community who received personal assistance relied
26 exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help; and

1 WHEREAS, an estimated 1.2 million Alabamians provide
2 care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an
3 estimated 783 hours a year and an estimated value of \$7.3
4 billion each year; and

5 WHEREAS, nationally, 70 percent of people with
6 Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder live at home and
7 need assistance with activities of daily living; and

8 WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging
9 population of older adults who have significant needs for
10 long-term services and support, the state must develop methods
11 to both encourage and support families to assist their aging
12 relatives and develop ways to recruit and retain a qualified,
13 responsive in-home care workforce; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
15 ALABAMA, That:

16 (1) The Alabama Disability Leadership Coalition is
17 requested to establish a study committee on family caregiving
18 and long-term support and services for the purpose of
19 providing recommendations and advice to the Governor and
20 Legislature to encourage innovative and creative means to
21 support family caregivers to continue to provide needed
22 in-home support for older adults.

23 (2) The study committee is further requested to
24 identify policies, resources, and programs available for
25 family caregivers and encourage additional innovative and
26 creative means to support family caregivers to continue to
27 provide needed in-home support for older adults.

1 (3) The study committee is requested to receive
2 testimony on the needs for family caregivers including
3 designation of caregivers, training, respite services, medical
4 leave policies, delegation of tasks to nonmedical aides and
5 other policies.

6 (4) The study committee is requested to compile an
7 inventory of the resources available to family caregivers.

8 (5) The study committee is requested to issue a
9 report to the Legislature by January 31, 2016, with
10 recommendations for legislative and administrative action to
11 support family caregivers.