

1 SJR9
2 164727-1
3 By Senator Orr
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

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8 REESTABLISHING AND EXTENDING THE ALABAMA SELECT
9 COMMISSION ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND STUDENT DROPOUTS.
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11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
12 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Select Commission
13 on High School Graduation and Student Dropouts established
14 pursuant to Act 2009-229, SJR24, 2009 Regular Session (Acts
15 2009, p. 407) is reestablished and extended.

16 The commission shall be composed of the following
17 members appointed as follows on or before July 1, 2015:

18 (1) Four members of the Alabama House of
19 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (2) Four members of the Alabama Senate appointed by
22 the Lieutenant Governor.

23 (3) Four members from the business, civic, and
24 community leaders of Alabama appointed by the Governor.

25 (4) Four members from the legal, philanthropic, and
26 education leaders of Alabama appointed by the Chief Justice of
27 the Alabama Supreme Court.

1 (5) Four members from the education leaders of
2 Alabama appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

3 The membership of the commission shall be inclusive
4 and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural,
5 and economic diversity of the state.

6 Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by the
7 appointing authority who appointed the vacating member.

8 The commission shall study the problems and patterns
9 of high school dropouts in Alabama and their educational and
10 economic impact on the state and local communities. In
11 connection with this study, the commission may examine a range
12 of issues and factors, including all of the following:

13 (1) The graduation and dropout rates in Alabama.

14 (2) The educational and economic impact of students
15 failing to graduate from high school on time and dropping out
16 of school.

17 (3) The importance to the entire state of every
18 student leaving high school prepared to enter the workforce or
19 to succeed in higher education.

20 (4) Research on best practices and factors related
21 to students' success in school.

22 (5) How well high school students understand the
23 social and economic consequences of dropping out of school.

24 (6) Strategies, programs, and support services that
25 help to enable students to graduate from high school.

1 (7) Related laws and policies that must be addressed
2 to ensure the availability of effective strategies, programs,
3 and support services for students.

4 (8) The educational and fiscal impact of raising the
5 compulsory attendance age.

6 (9) Possible exemptions from the law for certain
7 students, including those students who fulfill their
8 graduation requirements early and receive a diploma.

9 (10) The fiscal impact of reduced dropouts on the
10 state government and the Alabama economy.

11 (11) The laws and programs of other states in
12 increasing graduation rates and raising the compulsory school
13 attendance age.

14 (12) Input on the issue from a wide range of sources
15 across Alabama, including school personnel, student dropouts,
16 students at risk of dropping out, community, civic,
17 philanthropic, legal, and education leaders who have studied
18 or addressed this problem.

19 The initial 2015 meeting of the commission shall be
20 called by the Governor. The Governor shall name the chair and
21 vice chair of the commission. Subsequent meetings shall be at
22 the call of the chair or a majority of the members of the
23 commission. The commission may adopt procedures. A majority of
24 the commission constitutes a quorum.

25 The commission may meet at various locations around
26 the state in order to promote greater public participation in
27 its deliberations. State agencies shall offer and provide

1 adequate meeting space to the commission upon request of the
2 commission.

3 Upon request of the chair, the Secretary of the
4 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
5 provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the
6 commission and appropriate state agencies shall provide
7 technical assistance.

8 The commission shall submit a final report of its
9 study, including any proposed legislation, to the Governor,
10 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
11 and Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court on or before
12 December 31, 2018, whereupon it shall stand dissolved and
13 discharged of any further duties. The Office of the Governor
14 shall post the report on its Internet website within 21 days
15 of the filing.

16 Nonlegislative members of the commission shall serve
17 without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses
18 incurred in attending meetings of the commission according to
19 the policies and procedures applying to their respective
20 employers.

21 Each legislative member of the commission shall be
22 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, per
23 diem, and travel expenses as provided in Amendment 871 of the
24 Constitution of Alabama of 1901.