

1 HJR62
2 179659-1
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Poole, Chesteen, Clouse, Greer,
4 Tuggle, Hurst, Patterson, Rich, Mooney, Fridy, Holmes (M),
5 Ainsworth, Ledbetter, Faulkner, Pettus, Jones, Henry, Wingo,
6 Williams (P) and Butler
7 RFD: Rules
8 First Read: 24-AUG-16

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8 CREATING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON BUDGET
9 REFORM.

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11 WHEREAS, the citizens of Alabama expect and deserve
12 a stable, transparent, and effective government that meets the
13 needs of citizens through high quality and efficient programs
14 and services; and

15 WHEREAS, the expenditures of state government within
16 the General Fund are projected to continue growing at a level
17 that will outpace available revenues; and

18 WHEREAS, the existing structure of the state
19 budgeting process limits the ability of the Legislature to
20 address shortages in critical statewide programs and services;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, reforming current budgeting practices will
23 allow the Legislature to more thoroughly review and oversee
24 state agency spending, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are
25 being appropriated in the best manner possible; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That a Joint Legislative Task Force

1 on Budget Reform is created to examine the structure and
2 design of the state budgeting process and make recommendations
3 for long-term reforms.

4 (a) The committee shall be composed of the
5 following:

6 (1) Seven members of the House appointed by the
7 Speaker of the House, two of whom must be members of the
8 minority caucus in the House.

9 (2) Seven members of the Senate appointed by the
10 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two of whom must be
11 members of the minority caucus in the Senate.

12 (b) The task force shall evaluate and recommend
13 changes to state budgeting practices including, but not
14 limited to:

15 (1) Implementing a biennial budgeting cycle for the
16 Education Trust Fund and General Fund.

17 (2) Requiring state entities to undergo greater
18 performance and program reviews.

19 (3) Unearmarking funds in order to provide for
20 greater legislative oversight and appropriating flexibility.

21 (4) Reviewing existing state tax credits,
22 deductions, and exemptions that result in the loss of
23 approximately \$4.5 billion in revenue to our state budgets
24 each year, and creating a policy to ensure that future tax
25 credits effectively provide economic gain to the state.

26 (c) (1) The Speaker of the House and the President
27 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the

1 task force, which must be held not later than September 30,
2 2016. The task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair at its
3 first meeting. Upon the request of the chair, the Clerk of the
4 House and the Secretary of the Senate shall provide necessary
5 clerical assistance for the work of the task force.

6 (2) The task force shall meet monthly and shall
7 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
8 Legislature not later than the fifth legislative day of the
9 2017 Regular Session, whereupon the task force shall stand
10 dissolved and discharged of any further duties and
11 liabilities.

12 (d) Each member of the task force shall be entitled
13 to his or her regular legislative compensation, per diem, and
14 travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of
15 the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
16 Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid
17 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by
18 means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State
19 Treasury.