

1 SJR6  
2 179177-1  
3 By Senators Dial and Ross  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 15-AUG-16

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8           CREATING A JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO  
9 INVESTIGATE CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES INVOLVING COMPLAINTS FILED  
10 WITH THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION.  
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12           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance  
13 of maintaining the confidentiality of matters pending before  
14 the Ethics Commission so that the commission may determine if  
15 a complaint is supported by credible and verifiable  
16 information; and

17           WHEREAS, baseless and groundless complaints serve  
18 primarily to destroy the credibility of innocent persons if  
19 the existence of a complaint becomes known to the public  
20 before it has been properly investigated; and

21           WHEREAS, with regard to confidentiality, Section  
22 36-25-4.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, provides in pertinent  
23 part: "... no complaints shall be made available to the public  
24 or available on the Internet until the disposition of the  
25 matter. In no event may a complaint be made public or  
26 available on the Internet if the complaint is dismissed or  
27 found not to have probable cause. In the matters where the

1 complaint is dismissed or found not to have probable cause,  
2 only the disposition of the matter may be made available to  
3 the public or available on the Internet."; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That, in order to protect the  
6 credibility of innocent persons from groundless complaint, a  
7 Joint Legislative Committee is created to investigate  
8 confidentiality issues involved with complaints filed with the  
9 State Ethics Commission.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be  
11 comprised of three members of the Senate chosen by the  
12 Lieutenant Governor and three members of the House of  
13 Representatives chosen by the Speaker of the House.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each member of the  
15 committee shall be entitled to his or her per diem and travel  
16 expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of the  
17 committee.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall  
19 report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by  
20 the fifth day of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature.