

1 SJR91  
2 176054-2  
3 By Senator Williams  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 12-APR-16

1 SJR91

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4 ENROLLED, SJR91,

5 CREATING THE ALABAMA JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE.

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7 WHEREAS, the financial and administrative costs of  
8 providing housing, transportation, and services for juveniles  
9 in detention or participating in programs through the juvenile  
10 justice system grows significantly each year; and

11 WHEREAS, while the financial and administrative  
12 responsibility for juveniles who find themselves a part of the  
13 state's juvenile justice system should be shared among the  
14 state, the counties, and the municipalities, these state and  
15 local governmental entities do not currently share the cost or  
16 the administrative functions related to providing housing,  
17 transportation, and services in an equitable manner; and

18 WHEREAS, the costs are shared today through an  
19 antiquated system that has not undergone extensive review in  
20 decades; and

21 WHEREAS, a sharing of the costs in a structured and  
22 comprehensive manner could provide opportunities for more  
23 effective services available for juveniles as an alternative  
24 to detention utilized in part due to the lack of sufficient

1 state and local financial resources needed to offer adequate  
2 alternative programs and services throughout the state; and

3 WHEREAS, there is a need for a comprehensive study  
4 of Alabama's juvenile justice system which should include, but  
5 not be limited to, each of the following:

6 (1) A review of the costs and administrative  
7 functions related to providing housing, transportation, and  
8 programs for juveniles throughout the state.

9 (2) Consideration of the proper financial and  
10 administrative participation which should come from the state,  
11 counties, and municipalities for housing juveniles and  
12 providing transportation and local programs and services.

13 (3) Consideration of the resources necessary to  
14 adequately fund the Department of Youth Services in order that  
15 it may carry out its responsibilities, including but not  
16 limited to, the housing of juveniles being detained per court  
17 order and programs designed to address delinquency issues.

18 (4) A review of current procedures and practices  
19 related to the transportation of juveniles to develop  
20 cost-cutting and time-saving measures such as a region-based  
21 transportation system and video conferencing for preliminary  
22 appearances and hearings to reduce the number of times  
23 juveniles must be transported to and from court.

24 (5) A review of currently available juvenile justice  
25 programs and policies throughout the state to identify

1 opportunities for funding alternative programs which could  
2 reduce the number of juveniles actually held in detention and  
3 offer a better opportunity for juveniles to address issues  
4 that led to their placement in the juvenile justice system.

5 (6) Any other issues determined to be relevant and  
6 important in developing and implementing long-term solutions  
7 to the financial and program needs of Alabama's juvenile  
8 justice system.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama  
11 Juvenile Justice Task Force.

12 (a) The task force shall be comprised of the  
13 following members:

14 (1) One member representing the Governor's office  
15 appointed by the Governor;

16 (2) One member of the majority party in the Senate  
17 appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

18 (3) One member of the minority party in the Senate  
19 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

20 (4) One member of the majority party in the House of  
21 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives.

23 (5) One member of the minority party in the House of  
24 Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House  
25 of Representatives.

1           (6) One district attorney appointed by the District  
2 Attorney's Association.

3           (7) The Commissioner of the Department of Youth  
4 Services or his or her designee.

5           (8) One member appointed by the Association of  
6 County Commissions of Alabama.

7           (9) One member appointed by the Alabama League of  
8 Municipalities.

9           (10) One sheriff appointed by the Alabama Sheriff's  
10 Association.

11          (11) One police officer appointed by the Alabama  
12 Police Officers Association.

13          (12) The Director of the Alabama Law Institute or  
14 his or her designee.

15          (13) One juvenile court judge appointed by the Chief  
16 Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

17          (14) One juvenile probation officer appointed by the  
18 Alabama Chief Probation Officers Association.

19          (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate  
20 their appointments to assure the task force membership is  
21 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban,  
22 rural, and economic diversity of the state. The task force  
23 shall study and identify causes and potential legislative  
24 solutions for the problems set out herein and otherwise  
25 identified by members of the task force.

1           (c) All appointments to the commission shall be made  
2 before June 1, 2016, and each member of the commission shall  
3 serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing authority.

4           (d) The task force member from the Governor's office  
5 shall call the organizational meeting of the task force to be  
6 held no later than September 1, 2016, and serve as chair until  
7 the election of a chair as provided herein. At the  
8 organizational meeting, the task force shall elect a chair and  
9 vice chair, who shall serve at the pleasure of the task force.  
10 The vice chair shall serve as acting chair whenever the chair  
11 is unable to preside at a meeting of the task force. A quorum  
12 for all meetings of the commission shall consist of eight  
13 members. If a quorum is not present at the beginning of any  
14 meeting, the members present shall have the authority to  
15 establish an alternate meeting date.

16           (e) The task force shall report its findings,  
17 conclusions, and recommendations for proposed legislation to  
18 the Legislature no later than the fifth day of the 2017  
19 Regular Session, whereupon it shall stand dissolved and  
20 discharged of any further duties and liabilities.

21           (f) Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of  
22 the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives shall  
23 provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the task  
24 force.

1                   (g) Each non-legislative member of the task force  
2 may be reimbursed for expenses related to attending meetings  
3 consistent with the policies of the various appointing  
4 authorities.

5                   (h) Each legislative member of the task force shall  
6 be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation,  
7 per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a  
8 meeting of the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of  
9 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be  
10 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the  
11 Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the Comptroller on  
12 the State Treasury.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR91  
Senate 12-APR-16  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 13-APR-16

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By: Senator Williams