

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

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 CREATING THE ALABAMA JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE.

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the costs are shared today through an
22 antiquated system that has not undergone extensive review in
23 decades; and

24 WHEREAS, a sharing of the costs in a structured and
25 comprehensive manner could provide opportunities for more
26 effective services available for juveniles as an alternative
27 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
26 opportunities for funding alternative programs which could
27 reduce the number of juveniles actually held in detention and

1 offer a better opportunity for juveniles to address issues
2 that led to their placement in the juvenile justice system.

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

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

10 (a) The task force shall be comprised of the
11 following members:

12 (1) One member representing the Governor's office
13 appointed by the Governor;

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

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

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

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

24 (6) One district attorney appointed by the District
25 Attorney's Association.

26 (7) The Commissioner of the Department of Youth
27 Services or his or her designee.

1 (8) One member appointed by the Association of
2 County Commissions of Alabama.

3 (9) One member appointed by the Alabama League of
4 Municipalities.

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

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

9 (12) The Director of the Alabama Law Institute or
10 his or her designee.

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

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

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

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

25 (d) The task force member from the Governor's office
26 shall call the organizational meeting of the task force to be
27 held no later than September 1, 2016, and serve as chair until

1 the election of a chair as provided herein. At the
2 organizational meeting, the task force shall elect a chair and
3 vice chair, who shall serve at the pleasure of the task force.
4 The vice chair shall serve as acting chair whenever the chair
5 is unable to preside at a meeting of the task force. A quorum
6 for all meetings of the commission shall consist of eight
7 members. If a quorum is not present at the beginning of any
8 meeting, the members present shall have the authority to
9 establish an alternate meeting date.

10 (e) The task force shall report its findings,
11 conclusions, and recommendations for proposed legislation to
12 the Legislature no later than the fifth day of the 2017
13 Regular Session, whereupon it shall stand dissolved and
14 discharged of any further duties and liabilities.

15 (f) Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of
16 the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
17 provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the task
18 force.

19 (g) Each non-legislative member of the task force
20 may be reimbursed for expenses related to attending meetings
21 consistent with the policies of the various appointing
22 authorities.

23 (h) Each legislative member of the task force shall
24 be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation,
25 per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a
26 meeting of the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of
27 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be

1 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the
2 Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the Comptroller on
3 the State Treasury.