

1 SJR77
2 191512-4
3 By Senators Orr and Pittman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 20-FEB-18

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8 ADOPTING AN EVIDENCE-BASED BUDGETING PROCESS.

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10 WHEREAS, state government should be held accountable
11 to Alabama taxpayers for investments of state funds made to
12 programs and activities entrusted to be performed through
13 agencies receiving those funds so that state resources are
14 directed to effective and cost-beneficial programs that
15 produce the best outcomes for Alabama residents; and

16 WHEREAS, every program and activity performed by an
17 agency receiving state funds should be identified and the
18 premise, goals, objectives, and ultimately, the performance
19 and outcomes of each program and activity, should be measured
20 and quantified; and

21 WHEREAS, the goals of the state and those agencies
22 receiving state funds should be centered on a shared interest
23 in maximizing the value of limited financial resources and
24 further incorporating the use of evidence into institutional
25 decision-making processes; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That under the direction of the

1 Chairs of the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund
2 Committee, Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee,
3 House Ways and Means General Fund Committee, and House Ways
4 and Means Education Committee and pursuant to the ongoing
5 active technical assistance and training provided by the
6 Fiscal Division of the Legislative Services Agency, an
7 evidence-based budgeting process is adopted by this body as
8 follows:

9 (a) The evidence-based budgeting process shall be
10 implemented immediately for any new program, or the expansion
11 of an existing program, proposed to be offered by any of the
12 following state agencies:

- 13 (1) The Medicaid Agency.
- 14 (2) The Department of Corrections.
- 15 (3) The Department of Mental Health.
- 16 (4) The District Attorneys.
- 17 (5) The State Department of Human Resources.
- 18 (6) The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.
- 19 (7) The Board of Pardons and Paroles.
- 20 (8) The Department of Public Health.
- 21 (9) The Department of Senior Services.
- 22 (10) The Department of Agriculture and Industries.

23 (b) For the purposes of this resolution, the
24 following terms shall have the following meanings:

25 (1) A program is a systematic intervention or
26 prevention activity designed to achieve a specific outcome for
27 a defined population.

1 (2) An evidence-based program offers a high level of
2 research on effectiveness, determined as a result of multiple
3 rigorous evaluations, such as randomized controlled trials and
4 evaluations that incorporate strong comparison group designs,
5 or a single large multisite randomized study. These programs
6 typically have specified procedures that allow for successful
7 replication.

8 (3) A promising program has some research
9 demonstrating effectiveness, such as a single randomized
10 controlled trial or evaluation with a comparison group design,
11 but does not meet the full criteria for an evidence-based
12 designation.

13 (4) A research-based program has not been rigorously
14 evaluated and requires additional research to meet the
15 evidence-based or promising standards.

16 (c) Each agency listed in subsection (a) shall begin
17 incorporating evidence-based policy making into the budgeting
18 process and the personnel of each agency shall review the
19 programs offered by their respective agency, with the
20 assistance and direction of the fiscal division, and shall do
21 all of the following:

22 (1) Establish an inventory of each agency program
23 that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following
24 information for each program:

25 a. The name of the program, including whether the
26 name is a variant of a nationally recognized program.

1 b. A detailed description of the program, including
2 whether the program is addressing a problem or is an
3 opportunity to impact an outcome.

4 c. The average duration and frequency of
5 participation for a participant engaged in the program.

6 d. The agency or entity responsible for delivering
7 the program.

8 e. The delivery setting for the program.

9 f. The desired measurable outcome to be impacted by
10 the program.

11 g. A detailed description of the participants and
12 total annual number of participants participating in the
13 program.

14 h. Any known alternative program a participant could
15 participate in if the program were not provided.

16 i. The detailed annual direct and indirect
17 expenditures to deliver the program.

18 j. Any other information requested or required by
19 the fiscal division.

20 (2) Identify agency and program premises, goals,
21 objectives, outcomes, and outputs, as well as any other
22 indicator or component considered appropriate by the personnel
23 of the agency.

24 (3) Provide a comparison of the annual costs and
25 benefits per participant of the program to similar programs
26 offered in other jurisdictions.

1 (4) At the direction of the fiscal division,
2 categorize each agency program as evidence-based, promising,
3 or research-based. A program may not receive a rating of
4 evidence-based or promising unless the rating is first
5 approved by the fiscal division.

6 (5) Establish a procedure for providing a baseline
7 for each program which is built around research-based programs
8 or other programs that do not satisfy the definition of
9 evidence-based so that further research may be conducted to
10 gauge the effectiveness of the program.

11 (6) Describe any methodology used to develop any
12 program which is neither evidence-based nor a promising
13 practice.

14 (7) For any proposal to fund a new program or to
15 expand an existing program, submit a detailed proposal to the
16 Finance Director, the State Budget Officer, the Chairs of the
17 Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee, Senate
18 Finance and Taxation Education Committee, House Ways and Means
19 General Fund Committee, House Ways and Means Education
20 Committee, and the Director of the Legislative Services
21 Agency. The proposal shall include all of the elements of the
22 program inventory and a baseline evaluation procedure that
23 ensures the program is implemented to fidelity and
24 accomplishes its defined objectives.

25 (8) Establish a procedure for incorporating
26 evidence-based practices into provider contracts, which

1 requires the collection of data necessary to complete a
2 detailed and accurate program inventory.

3 (9) Provide continuous updates to the required data
4 and information on an annual basis.

5 (d) The fiscal division shall report to the Chairs
6 of the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee,
7 Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee, House Ways
8 and Means General Fund Committee, and House Ways and Means
9 Education Committee the results of all activities required by
10 this resolution with recommendations for incorporating the
11 information into budget recommendations and the appropriations
12 process.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appropriate head of
14 each agency referenced in this resolution are instructed to
15 take appropriate action to implement the provisions of this
16 resolution, and the Secretary of the Senate is directed to
17 transmit a copy of this resolution to each agency head so that
18 they are formally informed of our expectations regarding this
19 matter and our firm determination to closely and fully monitor
20 the implementation of the evidence-based budgeting process.