

1 HJR24
2 204549-3
3 By Representative Johnson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 11-FEB-20

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION ON PATIENT
4 TRANSPORTATION TO HEALTH CARE.
5

6 WHEREAS, barriers to transportation of patients to
7 health care often lead to rescheduled or missed appointments,
8 delayed care, and missed or delayed medication use, which
9 results in poor management of chronic illness and poor patient
10 health outcomes; and

11 WHEREAS, because many patients lack transportation
12 to health care, approximately 3.6 million patients nationwide
13 miss medical appointments every year; and

14 WHEREAS, even with help from family and friends,
15 often patients have trouble getting transportation to health
16 care appointments, and the lack of transportation becomes a
17 roadblock to health care; and

18 WHEREAS, many people with chronic conditions, which
19 include arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease,
20 chronic obstruction pulmonary disease and diabetes, need
21 medical services frequently; treatment of chronic conditions
22 account for a large portion of health care needs, particularly
23 for persons 55 years or older, and the Centers for Disease
24 Control has estimated that 78 percent of persons 55 years and
25 older have at least one of these chronic conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society (ACS) offers
2 the Road to Recovery program that provides rides to and from
3 cancer-related medical appointments for patients who otherwise
4 might not be able to get to cancer-related appointments; ACS
5 identifies and trains volunteer drivers who donate their time
6 and the use of their vehicle so that patients can receive the
7 life-saving treatments they need; and

8 WHEREAS, ACS offers small grants to clinics, cancer
9 centers, and hospitals which provide services to cancer
10 patients; these grants are used to provide gas cards or other
11 means to help patients get to treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, although these programs are helping some
13 patients, they highlight the great need of patients for
14 assistance with transportation to health care; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Study
17 Commission on Patient Transportation to Health Care to
18 complete an assessment of transportation needs and an
19 assessment of available services, strategies, activities, and
20 projects to address gaps, needs, and efficiency improvements,
21 minimizing duplication of services, and priorities for
22 implementation based on resources, time, and feasibility of
23 implementation.

24 (a) The task force shall consist of one member
25 appointed or designated by each of the following:

1 (1) The Department of Public Health by the State
2 Health Officer.

3 (2) The Medicaid Agency from the Non-Emergency
4 Medical Transportation Program.

5 (3) The Alabama Hospital Association.

6 (4) The American Association of Retired Persons.

7 (5) The American Cancer Society.

8 (6) A member of the House of Representatives
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 (7) A member of the Senate appointed by the
11 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

12 (8) The Department of Transportation.

13 (9) A representative of a ride-share company
14 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

15 (10) A representative of a health insurance company
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 (b) All appointing authorities shall coordinate
18 their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and
19 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

20 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives
21 shall be notified of the appointments to the commission no
22 later than September 1, 2020.

23 (d) The commission shall hold its initial meeting no
24 later than November 1, 2020. At the first meeting, to be
25 called by the American Cancer Society, the commission shall

1 elect a chair and other officers as determined by the
2 commission, and shall set dates, times, and locations of
3 subsequent meetings.

4 (e) The members of the task force shall serve
5 without compensation other than travel reimbursement that may
6 be paid by the appointing authority according to state law or
7 existing policies or rules.

8 (f) The Study Commission on Patient Transportation
9 to Health Care shall present a report of its findings, which
10 shall include its recommendations for legislation, if any, to
11 the Legislature on or before January 15, 2021, and the task
12 force shall be dissolved after the submission of its report.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 25-FEB-20.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

05-MAY-20

Adopted