

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

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8 ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION ON PATIENT
9 TRANSPORTATION TO HEALTH CARE.

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11 WHEREAS, barriers to transportation of patients to
12 health care often lead to rescheduled or missed appointments,
13 delayed care, and missed or delayed medication use, which
14 results in poor management of chronic illness and poor patient
15 health outcomes; and

16 WHEREAS, because many patients lack transportation
17 to health care, approximately 3.6 million patients nationwide
18 miss medical appointments every year; and

19 WHEREAS, even with help from family and friends,
20 often patients have trouble getting transportation to health
21 care appointments, and the lack of transportation becomes a
22 roadblock to health care; and

23 WHEREAS, many people with chronic conditions, which
24 include arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease,
25 chronic obstruction pulmonary disease and diabetes, need
26 medical services frequently; treatment of chronic conditions
27 account for a large portion of health care needs, particularly

1 for persons 55 years or older, and the Centers for Disease
2 Control has estimated that 78 percent of persons 55 years and
3 older have at least one of these chronic conditions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (2) The Medicaid Agency from the Non-Emergency
6 Medical Transportation Program.

7 (3) The Alabama Hospital Association.

8 (4) The American Association of Retired Persons.

9 (5) The American Cancer Society.

10 (6) A member of the House of Representatives
11 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (7) A member of the Senate appointed by the
13 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

14 (8) The Department of Transportation.

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

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

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

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

25 (d) The commission shall hold its initial meeting no
26 later than November 1, 2020. At the first meeting, to be
27 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.