

1 SJR34
2 205557-2
3 By Senators Gudger, Butler, Allen, Givhan, Melson, Sessions,
4 Price, Chambliss, Albritton, Barfoot, Beasley, Burkette,
5 Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn, Elliott, Figures, Holley,
6 Jones, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Orr, Reed, Roberts,
7 Sanders-Fortier, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 27-FEB-20

1 SJR34

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4 ENROLLED, SJR34,

5 ESTABLISHING CRISIS DIVERSION CENTERS TO PROVIDE
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS.

7
8 WHEREAS, in Alabama, the suicide rate has outpaced
9 the national average every year since 1990, suicide is the
10 third leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 24 years
11 old, and veteran deaths by suicide ranked second among the 50
12 states; and

13 WHEREAS, individuals suffering from mental health
14 crises often ultimately need emergency medical care or find
15 themselves in the criminal justice system; and

16 WHEREAS, behavioral health crisis services have
17 emerged as effective tools to improve the lives of people
18 struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues; and

19 WHEREAS, there are currently no crisis diversion
20 centers located within Alabama; and

21 WHEREAS, crisis diversion centers are regional hubs
22 where an individual can seek services at a physical location
23 on a 24-hour basis; and

24 WHEREAS, crisis diversion centers provide intensive
25 levels of care in a centralized location while also providing

1 for community-based resources that serve the needs of urban,
2 suburban, and rural communities in a cost-effective manner;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, crisis diversion centers typically include
5 both walk-in access for individuals, and also provide
6 emergency departments and law enforcement agencies with the
7 ability to transfer individuals to the center for crisis care,
8 and utilize several practices such as short-term admission,
9 medication management, case management, discharge planning,
10 and referrals to ongoing behavioral health care services; and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to improve
12 behavioral health crisis care by utilizing crisis diversion
13 centers to expand and enhance access to mental health care
14 services, provide a range of tools to divert individuals from
15 emergency rooms and the criminal justice system, maximize a
16 limited behavioral health workforce, and improve the quality
17 of life for Alabama's families and communities; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the first crisis diversion
20 centers in this state will be established in fiscal year 2021,
21 as they offer great flexibility to meet the unique needs of
22 individual communities, increase access to behavioral health
23 services, and are therefore an excellent alternative to more
24 costly care options such as hospitals.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR34
Senate 27-FEB-20
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 10-MAR-20

By: Senator Gudger