

1 SB221
2 209743-2
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 10-FEB-21

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

10
11 Relating to prisoners and parolees; to amend Section
12 14-1-1.5, Code of Alabama 1975, to require one executive-level
13 employee at the Department of Corrections be the Deputy
14 Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation; relating to pardons
15 and paroles; to require one executive-level employee at the
16 agency responsible for pardons and paroles be assigned as the
17 Deputy Director for Parolee Rehabilitation; to create the
18 Study Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration
19 on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly
20 Incarcerated Individuals; to specify the membership of the
21 commission; and to specify the duties of the commission.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. Section 14-1-1.5, Code of Alabama 1975,
24 is amended to read as follows:

25 "§14-1-1.5.

26 "(a) The commissioner ~~shall have the authority to~~
27 may appoint no more than three deputy commissioners, l who shall

1 serve at his or her pleasure, and ~~to~~ the commissioner shall
2 define their duties. The deputy commissioners shall be ~~persons~~
3 individuals of good character, ~~of~~ with good business,
4 educational, or administrative experience, shall have no
5 financial interest in any partnership, corporation, or
6 association with which the department has any financial
7 dealings ~~and~~, shall devote their full time to their official
8 position, and shall have no other lucrative position while
9 ~~serving as such~~ employed. Their salaries shall be set by the
10 commissioner, but shall not exceed the salary paid the
11 commissioner.

12 "(b) One deputy commissioner shall be known as the
13 Deputy Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation. The Deputy
14 Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation shall be responsible
15 for the development, implementation, and improvement of
16 programs designed to reduce recidivism."

17 Section 2. One executive-level employee at the
18 Department of Pardons and Paroles, or its successor agency,
19 shall be known as the Deputy Director for Parolee
20 Rehabilitation. The Deputy Director for Parolee Rehabilitation
21 shall be responsible for the development, implementation, and
22 improvement of programs designed to reduce recidivism.

23 Section 3. (a) There is established a Study
24 Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration on the
25 Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated
26 Individuals, which shall consist of all of the following:

1 (1) One member of the House of Representatives,
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

3 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
4 President Pro Tempore.

5 (3) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or
6 her designee.

7 (4) The Commissioner of the Department of
8 Corrections, or his or her designee.

9 (5) The Commissioner of the Department of Mental
10 Health, or his or her designee.

11 (6) The Director of the Department of Human
12 Resources, or his or her designee.

13 (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency,
14 or his or her designee.

15 (8) The Director of the Alabama Community College
16 System, or his or her designee.

17 (9) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law
18 Enforcement Agency, or his or her designee.

19 (10) The Secretary of the Department of Labor, or
20 his or her designee.

21 (11) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
22 Veterans Affairs, or his or her designee.

23 (12) The Executive Director of the Office of
24 Prosecution Services, or his or her designee.

25 (13) A district attorney appointed by the Alabama
26 District Attorneys Association.

1 (b) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or
2 her designee, shall serve as the chair of the commission. A
3 vice chair shall be designated by a majority vote of the
4 quorum of the membership at its first meeting. A quorum shall
5 consist of a majority of the membership.

6 (c) The membership of the commission shall be
7 inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,
8 urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

9 (d) The commission shall have all of the following
10 duties:

11 (1) Develop and present a strategic plan to make
12 communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization and
13 assist individuals who return from prison to become productive
14 citizens and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and
15 collateral costs of incarceration.

16 (2) Identify, implement, and promote evidence-based
17 research, policies, strategies, and programming to support
18 successful reentry and reintegration.

19 (3) Promote partnerships and collaboration among
20 state agencies and with local governments and organizations to
21 effectively and cost-efficiently advance reentry and
22 reintegration efforts and eliminate duplication of services.

23 (4) Develop strategies to expand access to
24 educational programs and support programs upon reentry.

25 (5) Develop strategies to assure access to health
26 care coverage and behavioral health services upon reentry.

1 (6) Identify and address unwarranted barriers to
2 successful reentry.

3 (e) (1) The commission shall hold its first meeting
4 no later than June 1, 2021, with the date, time, and location
5 of the meeting to be designated by the Director of Pardons and
6 Paroles, or his or her designee.

7 (2) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect
8 a vice chair, elect other officers as determined by the
9 commission, and set dates, times, and locations of subsequent
10 meetings.

11 (3) The commission shall meet at least monthly and
12 shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to
13 the Legislature no later than the fifth legislative day of the
14 2022 Regular Session, whereupon the commission shall stand
15 dissolved and discharged of any further duties and
16 liabilities.

17 (f) The House of Representatives and the Senate
18 shall provide the necessary staff and support to the
19 commission to perform its duties.

20 (g) Members of the commission shall serve without
21 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in
22 attending meetings of the commission according to policies and
23 procedures of their respective appointing authority or
24 employing agency.

25 (h) Legislative members of the commission shall be
26 entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
27 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the

1 commission, in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
2 Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

3 Section 4. This act shall become effective
4 immediately following its passage and approval by the
5 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Judiciary..... 10-FEB-21

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar 1 amendment..... 01-APR-21

Read for the third time and passed as amended 13-APR-21

Yeas 29
Nays 0

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.