

HJR225 INTRODUCED



1 AL35SS-1
2 By Representative Shedd
3 RFD: RULES
4 First Read: 23-May-23
5 2023 Regular Session



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4 HJR____ CREATING THE JOINT INTERIM STUDY COMMISSION ON
5 GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

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8 WHEREAS, grandparents play an important and
9 influential part in the lives of their grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, many grandparents have assumed the role of
11 parent for their grandchildren for reasons including, but
12 not limited to, the premature death of a child's parent, a
13 parent's incarceration, or concerns with a parent's mental
14 health or substance abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, while grandparents have been stepping in to
16 raise grandchildren throughout history, the number of
17 grandparents raising their grandchildren has increased in
18 recent years; and

19 WHEREAS, in the United States, over 2.5 million
20 grandparents carry the primary responsibility of caring for
21 their grandchildren; about one third of grandchildren living
22 with their grandparents are under six years of age; and

23 WHEREAS, grandparents who act as parents face unique
24 challenges when they assume responsibility of their
25 grandchildren; and



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26 WHEREAS, there exists a need to address the
27 challenges that arise when grandparents raise their
28 grandchildren; now therefore,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
30 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Joint
31 Interim Study Commission on Grandparents Raising
32 Grandchildren.

33 (a) The membership of the study commission shall
34 consist of all of the following:

35 (1) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

36 (2) One member appointed by the Attorney General.

37 (3) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
38 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the
39 Senate, appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

40 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,
41 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
42 and one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
43 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

44 (5) One member appointed by the Chief Justice of the
45 Supreme Court of Alabama.

46 (6) One member appointed by the Alabama District
47 Attorneys Association.

48 (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
49 Senior Services, or his or her designee.



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50 (8) The Commissioner of the Department of Human
51 Resources, or his or her designee.

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

54 (10) Additional members may be added by majority vote
55 of the study commission membership.

60 (c) (1) The Lieutenant Governor shall call the first
61 meeting of the study commission, at which the members shall
62 elect a chair and a vice chair from among the membership.
63 The study commission may then meet as necessary to conduct
64 business.

69 (d) (1) The legislative members of the study
70 commission shall be entitled to their legislative
71 compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day
72 they attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to
73 Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

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74 (2) The nonlegislative members of the study
75 commission shall serve without compensation but may be
76 reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of
77 the study commission pursuant to the policies of their
78 respective appointing authority.

79 (e) The study commission shall prepare a report of
80 its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for any
81 proposed reform legislation to the Legislature not later
82 than the third legislative day of the 2024 Regular Session.
83 In preparing its report, the study commission shall include
84 recommendations to address the challenges that arise when
85 grandparents raise their grandchildren. Upon filing its
86 report with the Legislature, the study commission shall
87 stand dissolved and discharged of any future duties and
88 liabilities.

89 (f) Each appointing authority named herein shall be
90 provided a copy of this resolution upon its passage.