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HJR___ CREATING THE JOINT INTERIM STUDY COMMISSION ON
GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

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

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

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

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

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



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) Three members appointed by the Governor,
36 including each of the following:

37 a. One member representing the faith community.

38 b. One member representing a family public policy
39 organization.

40 c. One grandparent who is currently raising a
41 grandchild or grandchildren.

42 (2) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

43 (3) One member appointed by the Attorney General.

44 (4) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
45 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the
46 Senate, appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

47 (5) One member of the House of Representatives,
48 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
49 and one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
50 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.



51 (6) One member appointed by the Chief Justice of the
52 Supreme Court of Alabama.

53 (7) One member appointed by the Alabama District
54 Attorneys Association.

55 (8) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
56 Senior Services, or his or her designee.

57 (9) The Commissioner of the Department of Human
58 Resources, or his or her designee.

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

61 (11) One member appointed by AARP Alabama.

62 (12) One member appointed by the Alabama Foster and
63 Adoptive Parent Association.

64 (13) One member appointed by Big Brothers Big Sisters
65 of Alabama.

66 (14) One member appointed by the Family Guidance
67 Center of Alabama.

68 (15) Additional members may be added by majority vote
69 of the study commission membership.

70 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
71 appointments to assure the study commission membership is
72 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
73 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

74 (c) (1) The Lieutenant Governor shall call the first
75 meeting of the study commission, at which the members shall



76 elect a chair and a vice chair from among the membership.
77 The study commission may then meet as necessary to conduct
78 business.

79 (2) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
80 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate
81 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the
82 work of the study commission as necessary.

83 (d) (1) The legislative members of the study
84 commission shall be entitled to their legislative
85 compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day
86 they attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to
87 Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

88 (2) The nonlegislative members of the study
89 commission shall serve without compensation but may be
90 reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of
91 the study commission pursuant to the policies of their
92 respective appointing authority.

93 (e) The study commission shall prepare a report of
94 its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
95 Legislature not later than the third legislative day of the
96 2024 Regular Session. Upon filing its report with the
97 Legislature, the study commission shall stand dissolved and
98 discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

99 (f) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
100 1975, the study commission shall provide a notice of all



101 meetings, the name of each member serving on the study
102 commission, and a copy of the final report and any other
103 documents produced by the study commission throughout its
104 duration to the Secretary of State.

105 (g) Each appointing authority named herein shall be
106 provided a copy of this resolution upon its passage.