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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



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.

55 (8) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
56 Senior Services, 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.

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.