

**SB233 INTRODUCED**



1 3TR6ZZ-1  
2 By Senator Chambliss  
3 RFD: Transportation and Energy  
4 First Read: 20-Apr-23  
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SYNOPSIS:

The Joint Transportation Committee was created to review and consider long-term strategic planning of highway construction and highway development in the state. Under existing law, the members who serve as chair and vice-chair of the committee, which rotate between House and Senate committee members, change every year. This bill would provide that members who serve as chair and vice-chair would serve two years.

This bill would also eliminate the duty of the committee to submit a report relating to the performance of the Department of Transportation.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Joint Transportation Committee; to amend Sections 29-2-3 and 29-2-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the process for electing the chair and vice-chair and provide further for the duties of the committee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 29-2-3 and 29-2-4, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:



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29 "§29-2-3

30 (a) The Joint Transportation Committee shall meet the  
31 fourth Wednesday of January, April, July, and October at 1:30  
32 p.m. at the Alabama State House. At the ~~second-fourth~~  
33 quarterly meeting of ~~each-year~~the first year of each  
34 quadrennium, the Joint Transportation Committee shall elect  
35 from its membership a chair and vice-chair which shall rotate  
36 between members from the House and Senate. The chair shall be  
37 elected from the House members of the committee and the  
38 vice-chair from the Senate members of the committee to serve  
39 the second and third calendar years of each quadrennium. The  
40 vice-chair shall become chair and the chair shall become  
41 vice-chair for the fourth year of the quadrennium and the  
42 first year of the following quadrennium. If the position of  
43 chair becomes vacant, the vice-chair shall serve as chair  
44 until a replacement chair is elected. An election to fill a  
45 vacancy of chair or vice-chair shall occur at the next  
46 quarterly meeting.

47 (b) Special meetings of the Joint Transportation  
48 Committee may be called by the chair by giving members of the  
49 committee 14 days notice when the Legislature is out of  
50 session, and 24 hours notice if a meeting is called on a  
51 legislative day or legislative committee day. Special meetings  
52 may also be called by petition of a majority of the members of  
53 the committee that includes the date and time of the meeting  
54 and all members are given 24 hours notice.

55 (c) Decisions of the Joint Transportation Committee may  
56 be made by a majority of the members present and voting at any



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57 properly convened meeting as long as a quorum is in  
58 attendance. A quorum shall consist of any 13 members. If less  
59 than a quorum is present at any meeting the recommendations  
60 presented by ALDOT shall be deemed approved.

61 ~~(d) Beginning in calendar year 2020, should~~If any  
62 member ~~be~~is absent from two meetings of the four quarterly  
63 meetings during any calendar year, the member shall be deemed  
64 to have forfeited his or her position and a replacement shall  
65 be appointed by the respective appointing authority as  
66 outlined herein.

67 (e) Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of the  
68 Senate and the Clerk of the House shall provide clerical  
69 assistance as the committee requires."

70 "§29-2-4

71 (a) On or before January 31 of each year, any county or  
72 city required to report local motor fuel excise tax rate  
73 information to the Department of Revenue pursuant to Act  
74 1998-192 shall provide a similar report to the ~~transportation~~  
75 ~~department~~Department of Revenue regarding the total amount of  
76 local motor fuel excise tax revenues collected by the county  
77 or city for the immediately preceding fiscal year and the  
78 total amount of the revenues expended on road and bridge  
79 maintenance and improvement during that same fiscal year. The  
80 transportation department shall collect the information and  
81 deliver a report to the Joint Transportation Committee on or  
82 before March 31 of each year.

83 (b) The powers and duties of the Joint Transportation  
84 Committee shall be as follows:



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85           (1) It shall review and shall consider concurring with  
86 the long-range plan of the transportation department as such  
87 plan exists at the date of the meeting called for the purpose  
88 of reviewing the plan. The long-range plan referred to herein  
89 is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)  
90 maintained by ALDOT for the purpose of complying with  
91 requirements of the Federal Highway Administration, which plan  
92 is amended multiple times each year for administrative as well  
93 as substantive reasons, and which plan shall be constantly  
94 available on the ALDOT website. A member of the committee may  
95 propose an amendment to the STIP, provided that the proposed  
96 amendment is delivered in writing to the transportation  
97 department by the close of business of the fourth Wednesday  
98 after the draft plan is presented to the committee. The  
99 proposed amendment shall be fiscally constrained within the  
100 funding category shown in the draft STIP. The transportation  
101 department shall prepare and deliver the amendment to each  
102 member of the committee no later than the fourth Wednesday of  
103 the month prior to the next quarterly meeting. Should the  
104 committee, by majority vote, accept the proposed amendment,  
105 the amendment shall be delivered by the chair of the committee  
106 to the Governor for consideration of changing the STIP as  
107 presented by the transportation department.

108           (2) The update of the transportation department's  
109 annual fund allocation plan shall be presented to the Joint  
110 Transportation Committee at the third quarterly meeting of  
111 each year. The review and consideration of concurrence in the  
112 annual update of the plan shall be accomplished by the Joint



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113 Transportation Committee no later than the last quarterly  
114 meeting of each year. Failure of the Joint Transportation  
115 Committee to concur in the annual update will not prevent the  
116 transportation department from proceeding with any project.

117 (3) The transportation department's requested budget  
118 for the following fiscal year shall be presented to the Joint  
119 Transportation Committee at the last quarterly meeting of the  
120 year. It shall review the budget proposed by the  
121 transportation department on an annual basis, which review  
122 shall be completed not later than the first quarterly meeting  
123 of each year. The Joint Transportation Committee shall report  
124 on the budget requests of the transportation department to the  
125 House Ways and Means General Fund Committee and the Senate  
126 Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee and may make  
127 recommendations about the budget to the committees.

128 (4) An in-progress draft of the annual report outlined  
129 in Section 23-1-35 shall be presented to the Joint  
130 Transportation Committee at the first quarterly meeting of  
131 each year. All comments and input from members of the Joint  
132 Transportation Committee shall be delivered to the  
133 transportation department within 30 days of the first  
134 quarterly meeting to allow consideration by the transportation  
135 department prior to publishing.

136 (5) The transportation department shall prepare and  
137 submit for review by the Joint Transportation Committee a  
138 long-range plan for the transportation department utilizing  
139 objective prioritization criteria consistent with the factors  
140 described in subdivision ~~(11)~~ (10) at the first quarterly



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141 meeting of the year. The plan shall include a narrative of the  
142 condition of the transportation department as well as forward  
143 looking challenges and opportunities. The intent of this  
144 requirement is to allow the Joint Transportation Committee to  
145 assist in avoiding future problems and challenges and to  
146 assist in the development of goals for the transportation  
147 department. This plan may be incorporated into the annual  
148 report as required by Section 23-1-35 or be prepared as a  
149 separate document.

150 (6) It shall issue a report to the Governor, Lieutenant  
151 Governor, House of Representatives, and Senate within ~~30~~60  
152 days of the ~~first~~second quarterly meeting, comparing actual  
153 performance of the transportation department in terms of  
154 highway construction, maintenance, and costs of the same, to  
155 the original plan for the immediate preceding fiscal year as  
156 well as the five preceding fiscal years. It shall also make  
157 this report available to the public within ~~40~~70 days of the  
158 ~~first~~second quarterly meeting.

159 (7) It shall recommend to the Governor necessary  
160 funding for future transportation department budgets to the  
161 extent necessary beyond funds already provided by law.

162 (8) It may retain the services of consultants, if  
163 necessary, and consult with other groups and individuals,  
164 including public interest groups, interested individuals, and  
165 appropriate state educational institutions.

166 (9) It may hold public hearings, shall make diligent  
167 inquiry and a full examination of the long-range future  
168 highway needs of the state, and shall file all reports of its



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169 findings and recommendations with both houses of the  
170 Legislature and with the Governor.

171 (10) It may call witnesses and do all things necessary  
172 or convenient in connection with and all things incidental to  
173 performance of the foregoing duties and powers.

174 (11) In performing its functions, the Joint  
175 Transportation Committee shall take into consideration, in  
176 reviewing plans for highway construction and maintenance,  
177 among other factors all of the following:

178 a. Commuter benefits in the total amount of direct  
179 savings to working men and women traveling to and from their  
180 jobs in the state.

181 b. Industrial and agricultural growth.

182 c. Transportation safety.

183 d. Ecological impacts of transportation projects.

184 e. Recreation and tourism.

185 f. Traffic density.

186 g. Implications on the routing of school buses.

187 h. Implications on the operation of public safety and  
188 first responder vehicles.

189 i. Priority to projects in a location with an  
190 independent local assessment.

191 j. Priority to projects which provide a county with its  
192 first four-lane access to an interstate."

193 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
194 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
195 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.