

SJR78 INTRODUCED



1 RX0CMN-1
2 By Senator Scofield
3 RFD:
4 First Read: 18-May-23
5 2023 Regular Session



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SJR___ CONTINUING THE DUTIES OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE.

WHEREAS, the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on 21st Century Workforce was established in 2019 by Senate Joint Resolution 31 of the 2019 Regular Session (Act 2019-68); and

WHEREAS, the initial membership of the commission included the Lieutenant Governor, three members of the Senate, and three members of the House of Representatives, each appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

WHEREAS, the commission was tasked to "study and, from time to time, make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the provision and coordination of workforce development efforts across state government"; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the commission released a comprehensive report that included recommendations for improving the state's workforce development efforts and maintaining the state's ability to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the state's labor force has undergone significant changes as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and



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26 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has one of the lowest
27 labor force participation rates in the nation; and

28 WHEREAS, Alabama is recognized as a leader in many
29 areas of workforce development, but the state does not have
30 a comprehensive workforce strategy and has a number of
31 duplicative programs within the state's workforce system;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the presence of a highly trained workforce
34 is critical to the long-term economic success of the state;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Alabama recently enacted legislation to
37 strengthen its economic development incentives and further
38 enhance the state's business climate; and

39 WHEREAS, it is important for the state to
40 periodically evaluate its workforce development programs and
41 objectives to ensure that government funds are being used in
42 the most efficient and effective manner; and

43 WHEREAS, a full review of the state's workforce
44 system will provide state government leaders with a better
45 understanding of what is needed to retain and strengthen the
46 state's labor force; now therefore,

47 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
48 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Lieutenant Governor's
49 Commission on 21st Century Workforce shall study the state's
50 current workforce development system and funding sources,



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51 and develop a state workforce plan, and recommend
52 legislation that is needed to improve Alabama's workforce
53 outcomes.

54 (a) (1) The membership of the commission shall
55 continue as provided in subsection (a) of Senate Joint
56 Resolution 31 of the 2019 Regular Session (Act 2019-68),
57 with the addition of two individuals who are employed in the
58 private sector to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
59 within 30 days after the enactment of this resolution.

60 (2) The non-legislative members of the commission
61 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
62 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the commission
63 pursuant to the policies of their appointing authority.

64 (b) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
65 1975, the commission shall provide to the Secretary of State
66 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
67 the commission, and a copy of its state workforce plan and
68 any of its other reports or documents produced during the
69 duration of its existence.

70 (c) The commission shall meet within 60 days of the
71 date of the final approval of this legislation and at least
72 two more times before the first day of the 2024 Regular
73 Session of the Legislature.

74 (d) The commission's duties shall include all of the
75 following:



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76 (1) Develop a state workforce plan and make
77 recommendations for legislative action to improve Alabama's
78 workforce outcomes with placement of more of its residents
79 in meaningful careers.

80 (2) Study and make recommendations for improving
81 Alabama's workforce development programs and the use of any
82 state and federal funding sources within each department or
83 agency of state government, including, but not limited to,
84 the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the
85 Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Alabama
86 Community College System, and the Department of Education.

87 (3) Study and recommend strategies for improving
88 Alabama's labor force participation rate.

89 (4) Identify strategies to recruit, train, and place
90 workers in high-demand, high-quality jobs, to expand
91 work-based learning opportunities, and to increase the
92 number of credentials earned by Alabama workers.

93 (5) Study highly regarded workforce development
94 programs and effective workforce funding strategies in other
95 states with conditions similar to those of Alabama.

96 (e) In doing its work, the commission may collaborate
97 with and consider the concerns of private businesses located
98 in Alabama and industry-led, public-private partnerships
99 that support businesses in their efforts to recruit, train,
100 and hire skilled workers, such as Alabama Talent Solutions.



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101 (f) All state agencies and departments shall
102 cooperate with the commission and provide the commission
103 with any information that is requested.

104 (g) The commission shall complete its studies and
105 submit its written report, including a state workforce plan
106 and recommendations for legislative action, to the Governor
107 and the Legislature no later than January 31, 2024.

108 (h) All other provisions of Senate Joint Resolution
109 31 of the 2019 Regular Session (Act 2019-68) shall remain in
110 effect.