

**SJR61 ENROLLED**



1 SJR61  
2 KCR4UAA-2  
3 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,  
4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,  
5 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,  
6 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Price,  
7 Reed, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman,  
8 Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams  
9 RFD: RULES  
10 First Read: 23-Apr-24



## SJR61 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

4 SJR\_\_\_ REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA TO CONDUCT A  
5 STUDY ON MODERNIZING K-12 EDUCATION SCHOOL FUNDING.

6

7 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program for funding K-12  
8 education in Alabama is a resource-based system that was  
9 adopted in 1995 and began operation in the 1995-1996 school  
10 year; and

11 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program is funded from state  
12 and local tax dollars with the local share coming from local  
13 property taxes of 10-mills that each system must levy to  
14 participate in the program while the state costs come from  
15 the Education Trust Fund; and

16 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program provides funding to  
17 school districts based on the anticipated costs of resources  
18 and inputs, such as salaries, basic financial support for  
19 classrooms, and operations money, but provides minimal  
20 additional state funding for students with disabilities or  
21 to address other individual needs of students; and

22 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program is complex,  
23 containing few techniques for lawmakers to employ to address  
24 the changing needs of students and school districts and no  
25 clear way to link state funding priorities to local spending  
26 decisions and the outcomes of various student groups; and

27 WHEREAS, local school systems face a myriad of  
28 challenges in meeting the unique educational needs of the



## SJR61 Enrolled

29 students they serve; there is a need for greater flexibility  
30 to provide the educational services required of teachers,  
31 administration, and school systems in general; and

32 WHEREAS, Alabama is one of only six states that only  
33 uses a resource-based funding formula for K-12 education,  
34 while 41 states use a student-based funding formula where  
35 school districts receive funding based on the number of  
36 students enrolled or in attendance with additional funding  
37 being provided based on characteristics of the students of  
38 the district, such as low-income, poverty, disability, and  
39 status as an English language learner, or a gifted student;  
40 and

41 WHEREAS, many outside studies have concluded that  
42 states should shift K-12 education school funding away from  
43 a resource-based system and into a modern, weighted,  
44 student-based funding model that would reflect the true cost  
45 of educating various student groups and moving all students  
46 toward proficiency; now therefore,

47 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
48 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature of Alabama  
49 shall conduct a study on modernizing the current K-12 school  
50 funding model into a student-based funding model, including  
51 any additional costs associated with the transition, as well  
52 as any necessary changes in law that may be required to  
53 implement a new statutory framework that supports meaningful  
54 education to Alabama's K-12 students.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature shall  
56 deliver the findings of its study and any proposed



## **SJR61 Enrolled**

57 legislation to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
58 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
59 by February 1, 2025.  
60



## SJR61 Enrolled

61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR61

Senate 23-Apr-24

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

---

House of Representatives

Passed: 25-Apr-24

---

By: Senator Orr