

## HB438 INTRODUCED



1 HB438  
2 6YKQ41Z-1  
3 By Representative Drummond  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Education Transparency Board as a temporary board within the State Department of Education.

This bill would require the board to initiate and oversee an impact study, should the budget of the United States Department of Education be reduced by 20 percent.

This bill would require the board to select an independent, nonpartisan entity to complete the impact study and set out the parameters for the impact study.

This bill would provide for the publication of a final report on the department's website.

This bill would also authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to create the Education Transparency Board within the State Department of Education; to provide for the commission and completion of an impact study following certain reductions in the budget of the



## HB438 INTRODUCED

United States Department of Education; to provide for the distribution of a final report; and to authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Education Impact Transparency Act.

Section 2. The purpose of this act is to ensure transparency and accountability following any significant reductions to the scope, workforce, or budget of the United States Department of Education by requiring an impact study that evaluates the consequences of any such reduction on Alabama public K-12 schools and distributes relevant findings to Alabama taxpayers and families.

Section 3. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) BOARD. The Education Transparency Board created pursuant to this act.

(2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

(3) SECRETARY. The Secretary of the State Board of Education.

Section 4. (a) The Education Transparency Board is established as a temporary board within the Department of Education to oversee and facilitate the impact study required by this act.

(b) (1) The board shall be composed of the following members, subject to subdivision (2):

a. The Secretary of the State Board of Education, or his or her designee, who shall serve as an ex officio



## HB438 INTRODUCED

non-voting member.

b. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

c. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

d. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

e. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) Each appointing authority shall ensure that his or her appointee, in at least two primary elections in the four statewide elections immediately preceding the appointment, selected the ballot of the major political party opposite the political party affiliation of the appointing authority.

(c)(1) Each appointing authority shall make its appointment to the board no later than 90 days after June 1, 2025.

(2) No later than 30 days after all appointments have been made, the secretary shall convene the first meeting of the board, at which time the board may elect a chair from among the members. At the meeting, the board shall select and commission an independent, nonpartisan entity with experience in education policy and finance to complete the study. The board may then meet as necessary to conduct business.

Section 5. (a)(1) No later than 14 days after any action by the federal government which results in a reduction of the scope, workforce, or budget of the United States Department of Education by more than 20 percent, the secretary



## HB438 INTRODUCED

85 shall convene a meeting of the board, at which meeting the  
86 board shall begin the impact study to determine the aggregate  
87 impact of these reductions on public K-12 schools and local  
88 boards of education in Alabama. Representatives of the entity  
89 selected to conduct the study pursuant to Section 4 shall  
90 attend the meeting.

91 (2) The impact study shall include, but not be limited  
92 to, all of the following:

93 a. A district-by-district analysis of anticipated  
94 changes in funding, staffing, and resources at each local  
95 board of education due to the reductions.

96 b. An assessment of how the reductions may affect  
97 student outcomes in public K-12 schools including, but not  
98 limited to, academic performance, access to programs, and  
99 school operations.

100 c. A breakdown of potential financial and operational  
101 consequences on each local board of education, and each public  
102 K-12 school under its purview.

103 (b) The board may submit a request for proposal to  
104 procure the services of consultants in accordance with Section  
105 41-4-133, Code of Alabama 1975. Once a contract is awarded, a  
106 consultant may assist the board with its duties, including the  
107 completion of the impact study.

108 (c) The State Department of Education, and any other  
109 state agency or local entity determined by the board to have  
110 information relevant to the completion of the impact study,  
111 shall provide all necessary data to the board for completion  
112 of the impact study.



## HB438 INTRODUCED

Section 6. (a)(1) No later than 90 days after the meeting convened under Section 5 to initiate the impact study, the board, in consultation with the entity, shall publish a final report detailing the findings of the impact study, including all information required by Section 5.

(2) The final report, in order to ensure public awareness of how their representatives have responded to the reductions, shall also include any official public statements indicating support for or opposition to the reductions made by local or state elected officials representing the district where each local board is located. For the purposes of this section, the term "official public statements" includes, but is not limited to, press releases and social media posts.

(b)(1) The final report shall be provided to the secretary, the Chairs of the Senate Education Policy Committee and Finance and Taxation Education Committee, the Chairs of the House of Representatives Education Policy Committee and Ways and Means Education Committee, the Governor, and each local superintendent of education.

(2) The department shall also publish the final report in an accessible and easily understandable format, such as through the use of summary findings and key data visualizations, to the general public on the department's website. Each local board of education shall also update its website to include a prominent link to the final report on the department's website.

(3) Following the publication of the report, the board shall stand dissolved and discharged of any future duties and



## HB438 INTRODUCED

141 liabilities.

142 (c) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
143 1975, the board shall provide a notice of all meetings, the  
144 name of each member serving on the board, and a copy of the  
145 final report and any other documents produced by the board  
146 throughout its duration to the Secretary of State.

147 Section 7. The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
148 to implement and administer this section. The department shall  
149 provide administrative and other assistance for the work of  
150 the board as necessary.

151 Section 8. This act shall become effective on June 1,  
152 2025.