

HJR324 INTRODUCED



1 HJR324
2 AV9ES7S-1
3 By Representative Lands
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 01-May-25



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4 HJR___ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA K-12 MENTAL HEALTH TASK
5 FORCE.
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7 WHEREAS, millions of adults and children are affected
8 by mental illnesses every year; and

9 WHEREAS, one in six United States youth aged six to
10 17 experience a mental health disorder each year; and

11 WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses have the
12 possibility of recovering if given necessary services and
13 support in their communities; and

14 WHEREAS, schools are an effective and efficient place
15 to teach youths to identify, understand, and respond to
16 signs of mental health disorders in themselves and among
17 their peers; and

18 WHEREAS, schools can provide meaningful instruction
19 to students on how to help someone who is developing a
20 mental health problem or experiencing a mental health
21 crisis; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama
24 K-12 Mental Health Task Force to evaluate and recommend
25 policies that promote student mental health in public
26 schools.

27 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of
28 the following:



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29 (1) One member of the House of Representatives
30 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
31 and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by
32 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

33 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the
34 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the
35 Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

36 (3) The Chairs of the House Education Policy Standing
37 Committee and the Senate Education Policy Standing
38 Committee.

39 (4) The State Superintendent of Education or his or
40 her designee.

41 (5) The Secretary of Early Childhood Education or his
42 or her designee.

43 (6) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
44 Mental Health or his or her designee.

45 (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
46 Human Resources or his or her designee.

47 (8) The Executive Director of the Alabama Department
48 of Youth Services or his or her designee.

49 (9) One psychiatrist with expertise in treating
50 children to be appointed by the Governor.

51 (10) One clinical psychologist with expertise in
52 treating children appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

53 (11) Any member of the Senate or the House of
54 Representatives who desires to promote the mental health of
55 students in Alabama schools.



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56 (12) Additional members may be added by majority vote
57 of the task force membership.

58 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
59 appointments to assure the task force membership is
60 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
61 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

62 (c) The work of the task force may include, but not
63 be limited to, any of the following in pursuit of its goal
64 of evaluating and recommending policies that promote student
65 mental health in public K-12 schools:

66 (1) Collecting and analyzing data related to the
67 current state of student mental health in public K-12
68 schools across the state.

69 (2) Evaluating the resources currently available to
70 students to address mental health issues and identifying the
71 gaps in those resources.

72 (3) Developing early childhood mental health
73 prevention programs in public elementary schools to help
74 students identify, understand, and respond to signs of
75 mental health disorders in themselves and among their peers.

76 (4) Exploring the impact of mental health issues on
77 student behavior and safety, dropout and graduation rates,
78 academic achievement, and employment.

79 (5) Reviewing mental health training, professional
80 development, and gaps in training provided to school
81 personnel for classroom management, identification,
82 referral, intervention, and prevention of mental health
83 issues.



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84 (6) Reviewing the workforce landscape to determine if
85 there are sufficient personnel to address the mental health
86 issues of students.

87 (d) The Chair of the House Education Policy Standing
88 Committee shall call the first meeting of the task force no
89 later than 90 days after this resolution's passage, at which
90 time the members shall elect a chair and a vice chair from
91 among the membership. The task force may then meet as
92 necessary to conduct business.

93 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
94 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate
95 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the
96 work of the task force as necessary.

97 (f) (1) The legislative members of the task force
98 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per
99 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting
100 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution
101 of Alabama of 2022.

102 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force
103 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
104 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force
105 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing
106 authority.

107 (g) The task force shall prepare and submit a report
108 of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
109 Legislature not later than the fifteenth legislative day of
110 the 2027 Regular Session. Upon filing its report with the



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111 Legislature, the task force shall stand dissolved and
112 discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

113 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
114 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State
115 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
116 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other
117 documents produced throughout the duration of the task
118 force.

119 (i) Each appointing authority named herein shall be
120 provided a copy of this resolution upon its passage.