

## HJR40 ENROLLED



1 HJR40  
2 89QG2H2-2  
3 By Representatives Baker, Collins, Drummond, Estes  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 06-Feb-25



## HJR40 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2  
3 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD  
4 CRISIS RECOVERY SUPPORT NETWORK.

5  
6 WHEREAS, after natural disasters like hurricanes,  
7 tornadoes and floods, after school shootings, and in public  
8 emergencies, recovery must be prioritized as a long-term  
9 process, rather than an immediate response only; and

10 WHEREAS, states, districts, and postsecondary  
11 institutions have focused on crisis prevention and  
12 management but may not have the capacity to provide  
13 sustained support for their students, teachers, communities,  
14 and even their own counselors during the recovery stage; and

15 WHEREAS, rural districts and institutions in  
16 particular tend to have fewer counselors and limited access  
17 to additional counseling resources; and

18 WHEREAS, school counselors are often expected to  
19 respond to student needs after tragedy, even as they  
20 themselves grapple with the emotional toll, underscoring the  
21 need for external support for the entire school community;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, schools and institutions affected by crisis  
24 may require at least a year of dedicated support to fully  
25 recover; and

26 WHEREAS, recovery efforts can strain resources that  
27 are already stretched thin, given that a National Center for  
28 Education Statistics study showed that less than half of



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public schools surveyed believe that their school is able to provide mental health services to all students in need; and

WHEREAS, recovery is an extended healing process for students and adults alike, and having additional counselors come to the aid of a school or institution in extreme need supports the healing process of all people in the community, including teachers and counselors at that school; and

WHEREAS, specialized training for counselors is essential to ensure that they have psychological first aid training and provide counseling that aligns with the unique needs of an educational environment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that students who receive adequate support after a crisis are more likely to succeed academically, remain in school, and contribute positively to society; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), with its 75-year history of partnering with states to improve education, is uniquely equipped to lead this effort because of its ability to mobilize key education and policymaking stakeholders at all levels; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That to meet the urgent need for a coordinated, region-wide effort to provide consistent long-term counseling capacity that is ready to deploy immediately after a crisis is managed, the Legislature supports the SREB Crisis Recovery Support Network; the Southern Regional Education Board, in close collaboration with governors' offices, state education agencies, local



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57 districts, and postsecondary institutions, will complement  
58 existing school and district crisis management efforts by  
59 focusing on long-term healing and psychological resilience  
60 by deploying counselors with specialized training to schools  
61 in extreme need; and will hire a coordinator for the network  
62 and cover travel costs for counselors during training and  
63 deployment.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 13-Feb-25.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**24-Apr-25**

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Adopted