

SJR78 INTRODUCED



1 SJR78

2 CXYF6WW-1

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 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 24-Apr-25



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4 SJR___ ALABAMA, A STATE OF CHARACTER.
5

6 WHEREAS, we desire to build upon our heritage in
7 making Alabama a place where families are strong, homes and
8 streets are safe, education is effective, business is
9 productive, neighbors care about one another, and citizens
10 are free to make wise choices for their lives and families;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, we recognize that individuals are
13 responsible for their actions, and that daily decisions
14 should be based upon sound timeless values that are the
15 basis of universally recognized character qualities,
16 including kindness, courage, loyalty, diligence, generosity,
17 truthfulness, honesty, and obedience; and

18 WHEREAS, irresponsibility and a lack of commitment to
19 these values have resulted in an increasing number of family
20 problems causing personal, social, and financial
21 consequences to individual family members and to society as
22 a whole; and

23 WHEREAS, when people fail to demonstrate positive
24 character qualities or make poor moral choices, the health,
25 safety, and welfare of the citizens are endangered,
26 resulting in financial burden upon the taxpayers for the
27 costs of lower productivity and increased social services
28 and law enforcement; many current societal problems will be



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29 alleviated when citizens live by positive and constructive
30 character qualities that distinguish between right and
31 wrong, and it has been shown that teaching and reinforcing
32 positive character qualities to juvenile delinquents
33 produces a change of behavior, reducing recidivism rates;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, our prisons far exceed planned capacity and
36 there is a need for more positive role models among our
37 young people to discourage juvenile delinquency and for
38 these individuals to understand those qualities that have
39 made our country strong and prosperous; and

40 WHEREAS, our schools should be safe climates in which
41 character is exemplified, taught, and strengthened, and
42 learning is encouraged; and

43 WHEREAS, the Alabama Superintendent's Commission on
44 Citizenship and Character Education recommendation is to
45 develop strategies to encourage partnerships between LEAs
46 and Alabama stakeholders for the "Alabama, A State of
47 Character" movement; and

48 WHEREAS, encouraging employees by recognizing
49 positive character qualities has resulted in an increase in
50 workplace morale, employee safety, and corporate profits;
51 such action is essential as Alabama competes for 21st
52 Century jobs with states in which character is emphasized;
53 and

54 WHEREAS, presidents throughout our nation's history
55 have promoted character principles and have encouraged
56 character education as a high priority for America's



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57 schools; many other highly regarded civic leaders have
58 extolled character as among the qualities by which all
59 people should be judged; and

60 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature must address the
61 challenge of allocating and stretching very limited
62 resources very far, because of education and social needs;
63 and

64 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature has repeatedly
65 appealed for the promotion of character-building strategies
66 through its approval of "Alabama, a State of Character"
67 resolutions in 2000, 2005, 2008, 2014, 2018, and 2022 and
68 the Alabama House of Representatives in 2011; and

69 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature again appeals for
70 character-building strategies to be promoted in a
71 collaborative way by partners, and we, as Alabama lawmakers,
72 again appeal for there to be creative efforts to support and
73 promote practical and affordable strategies for this state
74 which will help Alabama to take the lead with the "States of
75 Character" movement; now therefore,

76 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
77 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we reaffirm our 2000, 2005,
78 2008, 2014, 2018, and 2022 declarations of Alabama as a
79 State of Character, and appeal to partners to collaborate
80 when developing and supporting the implementation of
81 character building strategies; as Alabama leaders, we agree
82 to support the development of "State of Character"
83 strategies and to encourage cooperation with other legally
84 declared States of Character for the States of Character



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85 movement to positively influence our nation; we pledge to do
86 all in our power to promote this Alabama, A State of
87 Character resolution and character education in our schools,
88 businesses, homes, churches, local governments, state
89 agencies, media, and community groups, and we urge leaders
90 of each of these areas to do likewise.