



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 317

Committee: State Government

Sponsor: Senator Arthur Orr

Analyst: Hunter Lapp

Date: 03/11/2026

Senate Bill 317 as reported by the Committee on State Government would establish the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services (ACES) as a legislative department to advise the Legislature regarding the evaluation of services funded by the state. This bill would increase the administrative obligations of ACES by requiring ACES to: (1) develop and publish on the ACES' website evaluation standards to be used in the performance of evaluation services; (2) review, approve and publish on ACES' website plans and reports submitted by state agencies for each new program major expansion of existing programs identified that is receiving an appropriation; (3) conduct preliminary studies of proposed or existing policies or programs and publish and report these studies pursuant to the provisions of this bill; and (4) adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.

In addition, this bill would establish the 12 member continuing Legislative Committee on Evaluation Services to exercise supervision and control over the actions of ACES and would require the Committee to meet semiannually, which would increase the obligations of the Legislature to reimburse legislative members of the commission for expenses incurred for travel on official business, by an estimated \$350 per person, per meeting attended.

This bill would also establish the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services Fund in the State Treasury, which may be funded through appropriations from the Legislature or through the ability to apply for and receive grants from other sources. The FY 2027 Education Trust Fund appropriation bill recommended by the Governor would appropriate \$944,100, to ACES.

Additionally, this bill would increase the administrative obligations of: (1) the Legislative Services Agency to annually identify each new program or major expansion of an existing program receiving an appropriation and notify the respective agency and ACES of the program; and (2) the various state agencies with new programs or major expansions of existing programs

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to prepare and submit to ACES on a scheduled basis or specific programs or line items as requested by the Legislature.