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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would recreate the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services as a legislative department and substantially revise provisions governing the operation of the commission.

This bill would provide for the appointment of the director of the commission and revise and clarify certain duties of the commission.

This bill would also establish the Legislative Committee on the Evaluation of Services to supervise and control the commission.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Regarding the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services; to add Chapter 2B to Title 29, Code of Alabama 1975, to recreate the commission as a legislative department; to substantially revise the provisions governing the operation of the commission; to provide for the appointment of a director; to revise and clarify duties of the commission; to create the Legislative Committee on the Evaluation of Services; to repeal Chapter 2A, Title 29, Code of Alabama 1975, the existing law



29 governing the commission; and to provide an effective date.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. Chapter 2B is added to Title 29, Code of  
32 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

33 Chapter 2B. Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
34 Services.

35 §29-2B-1

36 There is created the Alabama Commission on the  
37 Evaluation of Services, which shall be a legislative  
38 department, for the purpose of advising the Legislature  
39 regarding the evaluation of services funded by the state.

40 §29-2B-2

41 (a) The affairs of the commission shall be administered  
42 by the director, whose actions shall be supervised and  
43 controlled by the Legislative Committee on the Evaluation of  
44 Services. The director shall be selected and appointed by the  
45 committee and shall receive compensation and benefits in an  
46 amount established by the committee, payable in the same  
47 manner as is provided for other state employees.

48 (b) A vacancy in the office of director arising from  
49 any cause shall be filled by the committee. The committee may  
50 appoint a highly qualified person as its director to a  
51 nonmerit, conditional appointment. The director, with the  
52 consent and approval of the committee, shall select and  
53 supervise professional and clerical staff upon a full-time or  
54 part-time basis as necessary to assist the committee and the  
55 director in performing the duties assigned by this chapter.  
56 The director, without regard to the state Merit System Act,



57 may hire employees as necessary to effectuate the purposes of  
58 this chapter. The number of employees, their compensation, and  
59 other expenditures of the committee shall be within the limits  
60 and in compliance with the appropriation made therefor by the  
61 Legislature and within budgets that shall be approved from  
62 time to time by the commission.

63 §29-2B-3

64 (a) There is hereby established the Alabama Commission  
65 on the Evaluation of Services Fund in the State Treasury for  
66 the deposit of all funds received by the commission and which  
67 shall be used for the operations of the commission.

68 (b) The commission may receive state appropriations and  
69 apply for and receive grant funds from other sources  
70 including, but not limited to, foundations, governmental  
71 entities, federal grants, and businesses. No public monies  
72 shall be expended by the director for any purpose unless the  
73 monies have been appropriated by the Legislature to the  
74 commission. Any monies appropriated shall be budgeted and  
75 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance  
76 with Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, and only in the  
77 amounts provided by the Legislature in the general  
78 appropriations act or other appropriation acts.

79 §29-2B-4

80 (a) The commission shall conduct evaluations of any  
81 agency or programs, services, activities, or functions of any  
82 agency at the direction of the Legislative Committee on the  
83 Evaluation of Services. Evaluations may include oversight and  
84 performance audits or evaluations pursuant to 45 CFR Part 164



85 E or 39 CFR Part 99 Subpart D.

86 (b) Any agency, or third party contractor to an agency,  
87 shall furnish to the commission any available material, which  
88 the commission determines to be necessary in the performance  
89 of the duties and functions of the commission.

90 (c) Any collection of data by an agency, or third party  
91 contractor to an agency, shall be furnished to the commission  
92 upon request by the director or an employee of the commission.

93 (d) The commission may take application for and award  
94 grant funds to any agency to further the purposes, policies,  
95 recommendations, and objectives of the commission subject to  
96 the availability of funding.

97 §29-2B-5

98 For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have  
99 the following meanings:

100 (1) AGENCY. Any department, board, commission, office,  
101 institution, or other unit of state government that receives  
102 appropriations from the state.

103 (2) CAUSAL IMPACT EVALUATION. A rigorous evaluation  
104 that uses experimental or quasi-experimental methods to  
105 determine whether a program caused observed outcomes,  
106 isolating the program's effects from other factors.

107 (3) EVALUATION PLAN. A written document that describes  
108 how an agency will assess a program's implementation, outputs,  
109 and outcomes, including the data sources, indicators, and  
110 methods to be used.

111 (4) LOGIC MODEL. A visual or narrative representation  
112 that shows the logical relationships between a program's



113 resources, activities, outputs, and intended outcomes.

114 (5) MAJOR EXPANSION. An increase in a program's  
115 appropriation of 25 percent or more compared to the prior  
116 fiscal year, or an expansion that significantly changes the  
117 program's target population, service delivery method, or  
118 geographic scope.

119 (6) NEW PROGRAM. A program that receives an  
120 appropriation for the first time and that is not a  
121 continuation or modification of an existing program under a  
122 different name or organizational structure.

123 (7) PRELIMINARY STUDY. An evaluation or examination of  
124 a proposed or existing policy or program conducted before or  
125 during legislative consideration, designed to inform  
126 legislative decisions about program design, feasibility, or  
127 resource requirements.

128 (8) PRIORITY EVALUATION QUESTION. A significant  
129 question about a program's implementation, effectiveness, or  
130 outcomes that an agency or the commission identifies as  
131 warranting systematic evaluation.

132 §29-2B-6

133 The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services  
134 shall develop and publish on its website the evaluation  
135 standards used in the performance of evaluations.

136 §29-2B-7

137 (a) Each year, within 30 days of the conclusion of the  
138 regular session of the Legislature, or any special session  
139 where an appropriations act is enacted, the Legislative  
140 Services Agency shall identify each new program or major



141 expansion of an existing program for which an agency received  
142 an appropriation and notify the agency and the Alabama  
143 Commission on the Evaluation of Services of the programs  
144 subject to the provisions of this chapter.

145 (b) Each agency shall prepare an evaluation plan for  
146 each new program and each major expansion of an existing  
147 program that is enacted in an appropriations act, as follows:

148 (1) The evaluation plan shall, at a minimum, describe  
149 the program's objectives, target population, key activities,  
150 expected inputs, outputs, intended outcomes, and benchmarks  
151 for intended outcomes. These variables shall be incorporated  
152 into a logic model in the plan.

153 (2) The evaluation plan shall identify the indicators  
154 the agency will use to track inputs, outputs, and key  
155 outcomes; and for each, describe the data sources and explain  
156 how the measures will be calculated for each indicator.

157 (3) The evaluation plan shall classify the planned  
158 level of evaluation (for example, monitoring, outcome  
159 evaluation, or causal impact evaluation) consistent with the  
160 typology in the standards issued under Section 29-2B-6.

161 (4) For programs meeting criteria established in  
162 guidance under Section 29-2B-6, the evaluation plan shall  
163 include a proposal for a causal impact evaluation or a  
164 justification for why such an evaluation is not feasible or  
165 appropriate.

166 (5) Evaluation plans shall be submitted to the Alabama  
167 Commission on the Evaluation of Services for approval and  
168 publication on its website, per the standards and guidance



169 issued under Section 29-2B-6, before data is analyzed.

170 §29-2B-8

171 (a) For each program subject to this chapter, the  
172 agency shall prepare and submit evaluation reports to the  
173 Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services on a schedule  
174 specified in the standards issued under Section 29-2B-6, which  
175 shall include at a minimum:

176 (1) A description of the program as implemented,  
177 including any material deviations from the original evaluation  
178 plan;

179 (2) Results on the agreed-upon input, output, and  
180 outcome indicators, including baseline values and trends over  
181 time;

182 (3) For programs with a causal impact evaluation, a  
183 summary of the evaluation design, key findings, and  
184 limitations; and

185 (4) The agency's interpretation of the findings and  
186 planned actions in response (for example, continuation,  
187 expansion, modification, or termination).

188 (b) The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
189 Services shall publish submitted evaluation reports on its  
190 website.

191 §29-2B-9

192 The Legislature, by language in an appropriations act  
193 or other act, may require an evaluation of a specific program  
194 or line item. Such a provision may:

195 (1) Specify that no more than a stated percentage of  
196 funds may be expended until the agency has submitted an



197 evaluation plan meeting the standards of this chapter;

198 (2) Require that an evaluation report be submitted by a  
199 certain date and that continuation, renewal, or expansion of  
200 funding in a subsequent fiscal year shall consider the  
201 findings; or

202 (3) Identify any additional or different indicators or  
203 evaluation questions that are particularly important for the  
204 program in question.

205 §29-2B-10

206 (a) The Legislature, by request of the Joint  
207 Legislative Committee on Finances and Budget or by language in  
208 an appropriations act or other act, may direct the Alabama  
209 Commission on the Evaluation of Services to conduct a  
210 preliminary study of proposed or existing policies or  
211 programs.

212 (b) Any action directing a preliminary study shall  
213 specify:

214 (1) The policy or program to be examined; and

215 (2) The questions or issues the study should address.

216 (c) The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
217 Services shall coordinate with the respective agencies or  
218 entities impacted by the study to:

219 (1) Confirm the scope and objectives of the study;

220 (2) Establish a timeline for completion based on study  
221 complexity and available resources;

222 (3) Identify necessary resources, including estimated  
223 costs and staffing needs; and

224 (4) Determine the content and format of the final



225 report.

226 (d) If the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
227 Services determines that completing a preliminary study as  
228 specified would require resources or time periods that exceed  
229 available capacity of the commission or agency, the commission  
230 may propose to the Legislature modifications to the study  
231 scope, timeline, or resource allocation.

232 (e) Preliminary studies may examine:

233 (1) The feasibility of proposed programs or policies;

234 (2) Estimated costs and potential fiscal impacts;

235 (3) Experiences with similar programs in other  
236 jurisdictions;

237 (4) Available data and evidence related to the policy  
238 area;

239 (5) Evaluation design options if the policy or program  
240 is enacted; or

241 (6) Expected implementation challenges and resource  
242 requirements.

243 (f) Each preliminary study report shall include:

244 (1) A description of the policy or program examined;

245 (2) The study methodology and data sources used;

246 (3) Key findings addressing the questions specified in  
247 the directing act;

248 (4) Limitations of the analysis; and

249 (5) Implications for policy design or implementation,  
250 if applicable.

251 (g) Upon completion, the Alabama Commission on the  
252 Evaluation of Services shall publish the preliminary study



253 report on the commission's website and submit the report to  
254 the Senate Finance and Taxation Committees, the House Ways and  
255 Means Committees, the Legislative Committee on the Evaluation  
256 of Services, and the Legislative Fiscal Officer.

257 §29-2B-11

258 (a) There is hereby created a continuing legislative  
259 committee to be known as the Legislative Committee on the  
260 Evaluation of Services to exercise general supervision and  
261 control over the actions of the Alabama Commission on the  
262 Evaluation of Services.

263 (b) The committee shall be led by the Chair of the  
264 Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee, the Chair  
265 of the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee, the Chair  
266 of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee, and  
267 the Chair of the House Ways and Means Education Committee who  
268 shall alternate as the chair of the committee each year.

269 (c) The Alabama Legislative Committee on the Evaluation  
270 of Services shall have 12 members. The membership of the  
271 committee shall include the following:

272 (1) The Chair and Vice-chair of the Senate Finance and  
273 Taxation Education Committee.

274 (2) The Chair and Vice-chair of the Senate Finance and  
275 Taxation General Fund Committee.

276 (3) The Chair and Vice-chair of the House Ways and  
277 Means Education Committee.

278 (4) The Chair and Vice-chair of the House Ways and  
279 Means General Fund Committee.

280 (5) One member of the Senate, appointed by the



281 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

282 (6) One member of the House of Representatives,  
283 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

284 (7) One member of the Senate, appointed by the Minority  
285 Leader of the Senate.

286 (8) One member of the House of Representatives,  
287 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
288 Representatives.

289 (d) The committee shall meet at the call of the chair  
290 or any two members, provided that the committee shall meet at  
291 least once every six months. A majority of the members of the  
292 committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
293 business at meetings. Members of the committee shall be  
294 entitled to their regular legislative compensation, per diem,  
295 and travel expenses each day they attend a meeting of the  
296 commission in accordance with Section 49 of the Constitution  
297 of Alabama of 2022. These payments shall be paid out of any  
298 funds appropriated for the use of the Legislature by means of  
299 warrants drawn by the Comptroller on the State Treasury.

300 (e) Members of the committee may participate in a  
301 meeting of the committee by means of telephone conference,  
302 video conference, or similar communications equipment by means  
303 of which all persons participating in the meeting may hear  
304 each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall  
305 constitute presence in person at a meeting for all purposes.

306 Section 2. (a) Chapter 2A of Title 29, Code of Alabama  
307 1975, related to the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
308 Services, is repealed.



309 (b) Any reference in any law to the Alabama Commission  
310 on the Evaluation of Services under Chapter 2A of Title 29,  
311 Code of Alabama 1975, shall be deemed a reference to the  
312 Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services created by  
313 Section 1.

314 (c) The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of  
315 Services created by Section 1 shall be deemed a successor to  
316 the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services under  
317 Chapter 2A of Title 29, Code of Alabama 1975 for all  
318 contracts, agreements, and memorandums of understanding.

319 (d) On October 1, 2026, all papers, books, materials,  
320 furnishings, funds, personnel, and property of the Alabama  
321 Commission on the Evaluation of Services under Chapter 2A of  
322 Title 29, Code of Alabama 1975 shall be transferred to the  
323 Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services created by  
324 Section 1.

325 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
326 1, 2026.