

HJR17 INTRODUCED



1 HJR17

2 2JU5LSS-1

3 By Representatives Blackshear, Reynolds, Garrett, Gray

4 RFD: Rules

5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



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4 HJR____ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL
5 STUDY COMMISSION.

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7 WHEREAS, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS),
8 through the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC),
9 currently supports more than 180 athletic teams across 22
10 institutions, offering opportunities to more than 2,200
11 student-athletes in sports such as baseball, basketball,
12 cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and
13 field, volleyball, esports, and most recently, women's flag
14 football; and

15 WHEREAS, Alabama has a rich tradition and cultural
16 affinity for football, with the sport serving as a major
17 driver of community engagement, school spirit, and economic
18 activity across the state; and

19 WHEREAS, community college football programs once
20 existed in Alabama but were discontinued due to financial,
21 logistical, and administrative challenges, leaving a gap in
22 athletic opportunities for students who may not have access
23 to four-year institutions; and

24 WHEREAS, the recent success and expansion of women's
25 flag football in the ACCC, supported by legislative
appropriations, demonstrates the viability of introducing
new sports programs at the community college level; and

28 WHEREAS, reinstating football programs at community

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29 colleges could provide additional pathways for
30 student-athletes to pursue higher education, develop
31 leadership and teamwork skills, and potentially advance to
32 four-year institutions or professional opportunities; and

33 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is needed to evaluate
34 the feasibility, costs, benefits, and potential models for
35 reintroducing football programs in Alabama's community
36 colleges; now therefore,

37 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
38 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is established the
39 Alabama Community College Football Study Commission to study
40 the feasibility of reinstating football programs at
41 community colleges within the Alabama Community College
42 System.

43 (a) The membership of the study commission shall
44 consist of all of the following:

45 (1) One member of the Alabama House of
46 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
47 Representatives.

48 (2) One member of the Alabama Senate, appointed by
49 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

50 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ways
51 and Means Education Committee, or his or her designee.

52 (4) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation
53 Education Committee, or her or her designee.

54 (5) The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College
55 System, or his or her designee.



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56 (6) The Commissioner of the Alabama Community College
57 Conference.

61 (8) Two community college athletic directors,
62 appointed by the Commissioner of the Alabama Community
63 College Conference.

64 (9) Two high school football coaches or athletic
65 directors from high schools with a classification of 1A
66 through 5A, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
67 Representatives.

68 (10) Two high school football coaches or athletic
69 directors from high schools with a classification of 6A or
70 7A, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

71 (11) Two representatives from universities that
72 participate in the National Collegiate Athletic
73 Association's Football Bowl Subdivision appointed by the
74 Lieutenant Governor.

75 (12) Two representatives from universities that
76 participate in the Southwestern Athletic Conference,
77 appointed by a joint recommendation of the Minority Leader
78 of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of
79 the Senate.



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84 (c) The study commission shall have the following
85 duties:

86 (1) Assess the current infrastructure, staffing, and
87 financial capacity of the Alabama Community College
88 Conference and the institutions of Alabama Community College
89 System to implement football programs.

90 (2) Evaluate potential one-time and recurring funding
91 sources for facilities and operational costs, including
92 public-private partnerships and legislative appropriations.

93 (3) Consider models from other states with successful
94 community college football programs.

95 (4) Solicit input from stakeholders including
96 students, faculty, alumni, and local communities.

100 (d) The first meeting of the study commission shall
101 be held no later than May 1, 2026, at which time the members
102 shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the
103 membership. The study commission may then meet as necessary
104 to conduct business.

105 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
106 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and
107 the Alabama Community College System shall provide
108 administrative and other assistance for the work of the
109 study commission as necessary.

110 (f) (1) The legislative members of the study
111 commission shall be entitled to their legislative

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112 compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day
113 they attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to
114 Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama 2022.

115 (2) The nonlegislative members of the study
116 commission shall serve without compensation but may be
117 reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of
118 the study commission pursuant to the policies of their
119 respective appointing authority.

120 (g) The study commission shall submit a final report
121 of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
122 Governor, the Legislature, and the Chancellor of the Alabama
123 Community College System no later than November 1, 2026.
124 Upon filing its report with the Legislature, the study
125 commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any
126 future duties and liabilities.

127 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
128 1975, the study commission shall provide to the Secretary of
129 State a notice of all meetings, the name of each member
130 serving on the study commission, and a copy of the final
131 report and other documents produced throughout the duration
132 of the study commission.

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