

HJR198 ENGROSSED



1 HJR198

2 7BC3BE2-2

3 By Representatives Warren, Lee, Forte, Clarke, Lands,

4 Holk-Jones, Hollis, England, Lovvorn, Hall, Rigsby, Drummond

5 RFD: Rules

6 First Read: 03-Mar-26



**HJR198 Engrossed**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

HJR198 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, millions of adults and children are affected by mental illnesses every year; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental illnesses lead full, productive lives when they have access to necessary treatment, services, and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, only half of individuals with a serious form of mental illness seek treatment for their mental illness; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can reduce stigma and change negative attitudes and behaviors toward individuals with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is positioned to enhance public awareness of mental illness and improve access to mental health care in this state; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama Mental Health Task Force to evaluate and recommend long-term policies and solutions for improving mental health care in this state.



## HJR198 Engrossed

28 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of  
29 the following:

30 (1) One psychiatrist appointed by the Governor.

31 (2) One clinical psychologist appointed by the  
32 Lieutenant Governor.

33 (3) One member of the House of Representatives  
34 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
35 one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
36 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

37 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the  
38 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one member of the  
39 Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

40 (5) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation  
41 General Fund Committee, or his or her designee.

42 (6) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ways  
43 and Means General Fund Committee, or his or her designee.

44 (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
45 Mental Health, or his or her designee.

46 (8) The State Health Officer, or his or her designee.

47 (9) One member appointed by the Alabama Probate  
48 Judges Association.

49 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
50 appointments to assure the task force membership is  
51 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,  
52 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

53 (c) The work of the task force may include, but is  
54 not limited to, any of the following in pursuit of its goal  
55 of evaluating and recommending long-term policies and



## HJR198 Engrossed

56 solutions to improve mental health care in this state:

57 (1) Collecting and analyzing data related to the  
58 current state of mental health care across the state.

59 (2) Evaluating the resources currently available to  
60 address mental health conditions and identifying the gaps in  
61 those resources.

62 (3) Developing mental health intervention programs to  
63 help Alabamians identify, understand, and respond to signs  
64 of mental health disorders in themselves and among their  
65 peers.

66 (4) Exploring the impact of mental health conditions  
67 on education, employment, and public safety.

68 (5) Reviewing and identifying gaps in current mental  
69 health training and professional development provided to  
70 public health personnel for identification, referral,  
71 intervention, and prevention of mental health conditions.

72 (6) Reviewing the workforce landscape to determine if  
73 there are sufficient personnel to address the mental health  
74 conditions of the state.

75 (7) Developing long-term goals for mental health  
76 resources and care in the state.

77 (d) The first meeting of the task force shall be held  
78 at the call of the Governor no later than 30 days after this  
79 resolution's passage, at which time the task force shall  
80 elect a chair and vice chair. The task force may then meet  
81 as necessary to conduct business.

82 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the  
83 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, the



## HJR198 Engrossed

84 Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama  
85 Department of Mental Health shall provide administrative and  
86 other assistance for the work of the task force as  
87 necessary.

88 (f) (1) The legislative members of the task force  
89 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per  
90 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting  
91 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution  
92 of Alabama of 2022.

93 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force  
94 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for  
95 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force  
96 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing  
97 authority.

98 (g) The task force shall prepare and submit a final  
99 report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to  
100 the Legislature no later than November 1, 2026. Upon filing  
101 its report with the Legislature, the task force shall stand  
102 dissolved and discharged of any future duties and  
103 liabilities.

104 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
105 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State  
106 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on  
107 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other  
108 documents produced throughout the duration of the task  
109 force.

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



**HJR198 Engrossed**

112  
113  
114

House of Representatives

115 Read for the first time and referred .....03-Mar-26  
116 to the House of Representatives  
117 committee on Rules  
118  
119 Read for the second time and placed .....10-Mar-26  
120 on the calendar:  
121 0 amendments  
122  
123 Read for the third time and passed .....10-Mar-26  
124 as amended  
125 VV  
126  
127

John Treadwell  
Clerk

128  
129  
130