

HJR198 ENROLLED



1 HJR198
2 7BC3BE2-3
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



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE.

4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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29 (1) One psychiatrist appointed by the Governor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 (10) One member appointed by the Alabama Council for
49 Behavioral Healthcare.

50 (11) One executive officer of a hospital located in
51 this state, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from a list
52 of three names submitted by the Alabama Hospital
53 Association.

54 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
55 appointments to assure the task force membership is



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56 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
57 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

58 (c) The work of the task force may include, but is
59 not limited to, any of the following in pursuit of its goal
60 of evaluating and recommending long-term policies and
61 solutions to improve mental health care in this state:

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

64 (2) Evaluating the resources currently available to
65 address mental health conditions and identifying the gaps in
66 those resources.

67 (3) Developing mental health intervention programs to
68 help Alabamians identify, understand, and respond to signs
69 of mental health disorders in themselves and among their
70 peers.

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

73 (5) Reviewing and identifying gaps in current mental
74 health training and professional development provided to
75 public health personnel for identification, referral,
76 intervention, and prevention of mental health conditions.

77 (6) Reviewing the workforce landscape to determine if
78 there are sufficient personnel to address the mental health
79 conditions of the state.

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

82 (d) The first meeting of the task force shall be held
83 at the call of the Governor no later than 30 days after this



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84 resolution's passage, at which time the task force shall
85 elect a chair and vice chair. The task force may then meet
86 as necessary to conduct business.

87 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
88 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, the
89 Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama
90 Department of Mental Health shall provide administrative and
91 other assistance for the work of the task force as
92 necessary.

93 (f) (1) The legislative members of the task force
94 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per
95 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting
96 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution
97 of Alabama of 2022.

98 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force
99 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
100 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force
101 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing
102 authority.

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

109 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
110 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State
111 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on



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112 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other
113 documents produced throughout the duration of the task
114 force.

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



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 10-Mar-26, as amended.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

09-Apr-26

Amended and Adopted

House

09-Apr-26

Concurred in Senate
Amendment