

# HJR198 INTRODUCED



1 HJR198  
2 7BC3BE2-1  
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



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

HJR\_\_\_ 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 INTRODUCED

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

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

55 (1) Collecting and analyzing data related to the



## HJR198 INTRODUCED

56 current state of mental health care across the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

80 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the  
81 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, the  
82 Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama  
83 Department of Mental Health shall provide administrative and



## HJR198 INTRODUCED

84 other assistance for the work of the task force as  
85 necessary.

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

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

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

102 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
103 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State  
104 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on  
105 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other  
106 documents produced throughout the duration of the task  
107 force.

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