

HJR47 INTRODUCED



1 HJR47

2 9JK4SMB-1

3 By Representatives Collins, Ross, Gray, Hollis, McCampbell,

4 Travis, Lands, Ensler, Clarke, Forte, Chestnut, Tillman,

5 Hendrix, Lawrence, Warren, Bracy, Jones, Hassell, Hall, Givan,

6 Sellers, Morris, Datcher, Moore (M), Drummond, England,

7 Rafferty, Boyd, McClammy, Jackson, Paschal, Daniels, Whorton,

8 Givens, Gidley, Easterbrook, Estes, Rigsby, Holk-Jones,

9 Kirkland, Hurst, Rehm, Baker

10 RFD: Rules

11 First Read: 22-Jan-26



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4 HJR___ SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A BICAMERAL HISTORICALLY
5 BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs) LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS.
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7 WHEREAS, Alabama is home to 14 Historically Black
8 Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including six private and
9 eight public HBCUs; the highest number for a state in the
10 country; and

11 WHEREAS, originally founded as early as 1867 and as
12 recently as 1975, the private HBCUs include Miles College,
13 Oakwood University, Selma University, Stillman College,
14 Talladega College, and Tuskegee University, and the public
15 HBCUs include Alabama State University, Alabama A&M
16 University, Bishop State Community College, Gadsden State
17 Community College, H. Councill Trenholm State Community
18 College, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College,
19 Lawson State Community College, and Shelton State Community
20 College; and

21 WHEREAS, HBCUs have expanded access to higher
22 education for students who historically faced barriers;
23 these institutions have played an important role in
24 producing leaders in education, business, government, health
25 care, and science; HBCUs also preserve important cultural
26 traditions and provide supportive environments that help
27 students succeed academically and professionally; and

28 WHEREAS, nationally, HBCUs generate \$16.9 billion



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dollars annually in economic impact, grant over 20 percent of undergraduate degrees for Black Americans, and generate 134,000 jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a high-quality education is inclusive and promoted and provided for all students attending institutions of higher education in this state, with particular attention being focused on our HBCUs; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body supports the creation of a bicameral legislative caucus, to be named the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Legislative Caucus, to protect, promote, and support the interests of HBCUs and students receiving educational instruction through HBCUs in this state.

(a) The guiding principles for state HBCU caucuses include:

(1) Advocating for fair funding and strong support services;

(2) Partnering with institutions, communities, and industries to create new opportunities;

(3) Informing lawmakers about challenges and solutions for HBCUs; and

(4) Promoting the value of HBCUs to the state's economy and future workforce.

(b) The founding members of the legislative caucus shall include any member of the Alabama Senate and Alabama House of Representatives who is interested in the provision



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57 of consistent, available high-quality education throughout
58 Alabama's institutions of higher education, including HBCUs.

59 (c) Upon passage of this resolution and the filing of
60 a bicameral Legislative Caucus Certificate of Registration
61 with the Secretary of State, the Lieutenant Governor shall
62 call the first meeting of the caucus, at which time the
63 members shall elect a chair and a vice chair from among the
64 membership. The caucus may then meet as necessary to conduct
65 business.