

# HR190 INTRODUCED



1 HR190  
2 BYE33QJ-1  
3 By Representatives Lee, Reynolds  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 26-Feb-26



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HR\_\_\_\_\_ SUPPORTING THE COMPLETION OF A STATEWIDE WORKFORCE  
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

WHEREAS, a reliable transportation system is essential to workforce participation, economic growth, and quality of life in communities across the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, transportation remains one of the most significant barriers preventing Alabamians from entering, remaining in, or advancing within the workforce; this is particularly true for low-income individuals, rural residents, older adults, and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, employers across Alabama consistently report difficulty hiring and retaining workers due to transportation gaps that limit access to job sites, training programs, and essential services; and

WHEREAS, transit services currently operate in 54 counties across Alabama, providing a range of services including rural van transportation, demand-response services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, and fixed-route systems in urban areas; however, these services vary widely in availability, capacity, and funding; and

WHEREAS, rural communities in particular face unique transportation challenges due to geographic distance,



## HR190 INTRODUCED

29 limited infrastructure, and increasing mobility needs,  
30 making public transportation a critical tool for workforce  
31 access and community stability; and

32 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Alabama Legislature enacted the  
33 Alabama Public Transportation Act, now appearing as Article  
34 12, Chapter 23 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975; the act  
35 created the Alabama Public Transportation Trust Fund, and  
36 required that a statewide public transportation needs  
37 assessment be completed every five years to identify gaps,  
38 priorities, and funding needs related to public  
39 transportation; and

40 WHEREAS, despite the statutory requirement, a  
41 statewide public transportation needs assessment has never  
42 been conducted due to the absence of a dedicated funding  
43 stream, leaving policymakers without the data necessary to  
44 guide effective transportation and workforce investments;  
45 and

46 WHEREAS, Alabama is one of the only states in the  
47 nation that does not provide state funding for transit,  
48 underscoring the importance of data-driven planning to  
49 ensure limited resources are used efficiently and  
50 strategically; and

51 WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide workforce  
52 transportation needs assessment would provide critical data  
53 on where transportation barriers intersect with workforce  
54 shortages, evaluate gaps affecting access to employment and  
55 training, and inform future policy and funding decisions to  
56 strengthen Alabama's labor force and economic



## HR190 INTRODUCED

57 competitiveness; and

58 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the essential role of  
59 transportation in supporting workforce participation,  
60 economic development, and community well-being across the  
61 state; now therefore,

62 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
63 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That this body supports the  
64 conducting of a statewide transportation needs assessment,  
65 as required by existing state law, to identify  
66 transportation barriers, assess unmet needs, and provide a  
67 data-driven foundation for future transportation and  
68 workforce investments.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That collaboration among  
70 state agencies, employers, transit providers, workforce  
71 organizations, and local leaders is encouraged to ensure the  
72 assessment reflects the diverse needs of Alabama's  
73 communities and workforce.