

**SJR73 ENROLLED**



1 SJR73  
2 MS7GB11-2  
3 By Senator Weaver  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 05-Mar-26



## SJR73 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR\_\_\_ ESTABLISHING THE FIRST RESPONDER BENEFITS TASK FORCE.

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6 WHEREAS, first responders, such as firefighters and  
7 law enforcement officers, are invaluable public servants,  
8 regularly risking their lives in service to their fellow  
9 Alabamians; and

10 WHEREAS, under existing law, local employees,  
11 including first responders, who participate in the  
12 Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) must accrue a certain  
13 number of years of certifiable service before their  
14 retirement benefits vest; and

15 WHEREAS, in practice, this means that if a first  
16 responder sustains an injury in the line of duty and is  
17 rendered permanently disabled before his or her retirement  
18 benefits have vested, the first responder, whose on-the-job  
19 injury prevents his or her return to service, must forfeit  
20 certain unvested funds; and

21 WHEREAS, when first responders sustain injuries in  
22 the line of duty and are unable to return to work, their  
23 injury should not jeopardize their hard-earned benefits;  
24 Alabama should ensure that these vital public servants are  
25 properly protected and receive the reverence they rightfully  
26 deserve; now therefore,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
28 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the First Responder Benefits



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29 Task Force is created to study first responder benefits and  
30 identify solutions to protect those benefits if a first  
31 responder is injured or rendered permanently disabled in the  
32 line of duty.

33 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of  
34 all of the following:

35 (1) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the  
36 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom must be the  
37 Senator from the majority party that represents the City of  
38 Pelham and one of whom must be from the minority party.

39 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives  
40 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
41 one of whom must be the Representative from the majority  
42 party that represents the City of Pelham and one of whom  
43 must be from the minority party.

44 (3) One member appointed by the Retirement Systems of  
45 Alabama.

46 (4) One member appointed by the Alabama League of  
47 Municipalities.

48 (5) One member appointed by the Association of County  
49 Commissions of Alabama.

50 (6) One member appointed by the Alabama Association  
51 of Chiefs of Police.

52 (7) One member appointed by the Alabama State  
53 Fraternal Order of Police.

54 (8) One member appointed by the Alabama Sheriff's  
55 Association.



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56 (9) One member appointed by the Alabama Association  
57 of Fire Chiefs.

58 (10) One member appointed by the Chairman of the  
59 Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education  
60 Commission.

61 (11) One member appointed by the Mayor of the City of  
62 Pelham.

63 (b) (1) The first meeting of the task force shall be  
64 held at the call of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
65 no later than 30 days after this resolution's passage, at  
66 which time the task force shall elect a chair and vice  
67 chair. The task force may then meet as necessary to conduct  
68 business.

69 (2) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the  
70 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate  
71 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the  
72 work of the task force as necessary.

73 (c) (1) The legislative members of the task force  
74 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per  
75 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting  
76 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution  
77 of Alabama of 2022.

78 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force  
79 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for  
80 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force  
81 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing  
82 authority.



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83           (d) The task force shall prepare a report of its  
84 findings, conclusions, and recommendations for any proposed  
85 legislation to the Legislature not later than November 1,  
86 2026, at which point the task force shall stand dissolved  
87 and discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

88           (e) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
89 1975, the task force shall provide a notice of all meetings,  
90 the name of each member serving on the task force, and a  
91 copy of the final report and any other documents produced by  
92 the task force throughout its duration to the Secretary of  
93 State.

94           (f) Each appointing authority named herein shall be  
95 provided a copy of this resolution upon its passage.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR73  
Senate 05-Mar-26  
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and  
passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Passed: 11-Mar-26

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By: Senator Weaver