

SJR73 INTRODUCED



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



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SJR___ ESTABLISHING THE FIRST RESPONDER BENEFITS TASK FORCE.

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH 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.