

**SJR93 ENROLLED**



1 SJR93  
2 JPLGWFN-2  
3 By Senator Weaver  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 17-Mar-26



## SJR93 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3

4 SJR\_\_\_ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
5 SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STUDY COMMISSION.

6

7 WHEREAS, rural communities across Alabama are  
8 essential to the state's economy, culture, and quality of  
9 life, yet they often face significant challenges in  
10 maintaining access to essential services, including  
11 emergency medical response and fire protection; and

12 WHEREAS, timely access to emergency medical services  
13 (EMS), including ambulance services and volunteer fire  
14 departments, is critical to public health and safety,  
15 particularly in rural areas where hospitals and trauma  
16 centers may be located significant distances from residents;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, many rural communities rely heavily on  
19 volunteer fire departments and limited ambulance providers  
20 as the first line of emergency response, often operating  
21 with constrained financial resources, workforce shortages,  
22 aging equipment, and long response distances; and

23 WHEREAS, the sustainability of rural EMS systems is  
24 increasingly challenged by rising operational costs,  
25 declining volunteer participation, reimbursement  
26 limitations, regulatory requirements, and demographic  
27 changes affecting workforce availability and service demand;  
28 and



## SJR93 Enrolled

29 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has launched the Rural  
30 Roadmap Initiative, a coordinated effort of legislative  
31 leadership and stakeholders designed to strengthen rural  
32 communities through strategic focus on health care,  
33 infrastructure, workforce development, economic development,  
34 small business, agriculture, and quality of life; and

35 WHEREAS, emergency medical services and volunteer  
36 fire departments play a critical role in each of these areas  
37 by supporting rural health care delivery, relying on  
38 transportation and communications infrastructure, developing  
39 local workforce pipelines, supporting economic stability,  
40 and strengthening community safety and quality of life; and

41 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the structure,  
42 funding, workforce development, regulatory framework, and  
43 service delivery models for EMS and volunteer fire  
44 departments in rural Alabama would assist policymakers in  
45 identifying opportunities to strengthen emergency response  
46 systems across the state; now therefore,

47 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
48 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama  
49 Rural Emergency Medical Services and Volunteer Fire  
50 Department Study Commission to conduct a comprehensive  
51 review of emergency medical service delivery in rural areas  
52 of the state, with particular emphasis on ambulance services  
53 and volunteer fire departments and their role within the  
54 broader rural health care system.

55 (a) The study commission shall consist of the  
56 following members:



## SJR93 Enrolled

57 (1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the  
58 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the  
59 Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

60 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives  
61 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
62 and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
63 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

64 (3) The State Health Officer, or his or her designee  
65 from the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the Alabama  
66 Department of Public Health.

67 (4) The following members, appointed jointly by the  
68 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
69 House of Representatives:

70 a. One representative of a rural ambulance service.

71 b. One licensed paramedic or emergency medical  
72 technician practicing in a rural area.

73 c. One representative of volunteer fire departments  
74 providing emergency medical services.

75 d. One representative of rural hospitals.

76 e. One representative of county government.

77 f. One representative of municipal government.

78 g. One representative of emergency medical services  
79 education or workforce training from one of the six main  
80 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) regions.

81 (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the  
82 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly  
83 designate a chair and vice chair from among the members of  
84 the commission.



## SJR93 Enrolled

85 (c) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
86 appointments to assure the study commission membership is  
87 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,  
88 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.  
89 Additionally, appointments, to the extent practicable, shall  
90 ensure geographic representation from rural areas across the  
91 state, including representation from north, central, and  
92 south Alabama and from communities with populations of fewer  
93 than 25,000 residents.

94 (d) The commission shall examine and evaluate, at a  
95 minimum, all of the following:

96 (1) The structure, availability, and service coverage  
97 of rural ambulance services and EMS providers, including  
98 response times and provider sustainability.

99 (2) The role of volunteer fire departments as first  
100 responders, including training requirements, equipment  
101 needs, liability considerations, and coordination with EMS  
102 providers.

103 (3) The financial sustainability of rural EMS  
104 systems, including reimbursement models, Medicaid and  
105 Medicare payment structures, local funding mechanisms, and  
106 alternative service delivery models.

107 (4) Workforce challenges and training pipelines for  
108 EMTs, paramedics, and volunteer firefighters, including  
109 partnerships with community colleges, career technical  
110 programs, and local school systems.



## SJR93 Enrolled

111 (5) Coordination between EMS services and rural  
112 health care providers, including hospitals, clinics, trauma  
113 networks, and telehealth systems.

114 (6) The impact of transportation infrastructure,  
115 dispatch systems, and emergency communications technology on  
116 response times and service delivery.

117 (7) Opportunities to strengthen rural EMS systems  
118 consistent with the strategic goals of the Rural Roadmap  
119 Initiative.

120 (e) The commission may review best practices from  
121 other states and receive testimony from stakeholders  
122 including EMS providers, volunteer fire departments, rural  
123 hospitals, local governments, educational institutions, and  
124 relevant state agencies.

125 (f) The first meeting of the study commission shall  
126 be held at the call of the chair no later than 90 days after  
127 this resolution's passage. The study commission may then  
128 meet as necessary to conduct business.

129 (g) The commission shall develop recommendations for  
130 legislative, regulatory, or administrative actions necessary  
131 to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of rural  
132 emergency medical services and volunteer fire departments in  
133 Alabama.

134 (h) (1) All state departments, boards, bureaus,  
135 commissions, and agencies of the State of Alabama shall  
136 cooperate with the commission and, upon request, provide  
137 available data, reports, and other information reasonably  
138 necessary for the commission to carry out its duties.



## SJR93 Enrolled

139           (2) The commission may request information from EMS  
140 providers, volunteer fire departments, hospitals, health  
141 care providers, local governments, and other relevant  
142 stakeholders as necessary to complete its work.

143           (i)(1) The legislative members of the study  
144 commission shall be entitled to their legislative  
145 compensation, per diem, and travel expense for each day they  
146 attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to Section  
147 49 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

148           (2) The nonlegislative members of the study  
149 commission shall serve without compensation but may be  
150 reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of  
151 the study commission according pursuant to the policies of  
152 their respective appointing authorities.

153           (j) The study commission shall submit a report of its  
154 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the  
155 Legislature no later than November 1, 2026, at which point  
156 the study commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of  
157 any future duties and liabilities.

158           (k) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama  
159 1975, the study commission shall provide a notice of all  
160 meetings, the name of each member serving on the study  
161 commission, and a copy of its final report and any other  
162 documents produced by the study commission throughout its  
163 duration to the Secretary of State.



**SJR93 Enrolled**

164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196

---

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR93

Senate 02-Apr-26

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

---

House of Representatives

Passed: 08-Apr-26

---

By: Senator Weaver