

1 HJR195
2 190638-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 13-FEB-18

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8 URGING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO SEEK OPTIONS
9 TO DIVERT AND TREAT DRUG OFFENDERS.

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11 WHEREAS, due in part to the incarceration of certain
12 persons with substance abuse issues, some inmates serving
13 sentences in the overcrowded prisons of the Department of
14 Corrections might be better served if those individuals were
15 placed in a community program to receive treatment and
16 rehabilitation for substance abuse along with guidance to work
17 toward becoming a law-abiding and more productive citizen; and

18 WHEREAS, community-based programs can potentially
19 create an effective justice intervention at a fraction of the
20 cost of incarceration; and

21 WHEREAS, the criminal justice system in Alabama
22 would benefit from development of an equitable method to
23 carefully screen individuals charged with substance-related
24 offenses for the possibility of diverting those individuals
25 away from incarceration in the Alabama prisons whenever
26 possible; and

1 WHEREAS, this method would require conducting
2 comprehensive needs assessments for individualized case
3 management, developing eligibility requirements and equitable
4 treatment plans, and implementing effective supervision
5 strategies that would refer participants to services,
6 programs, and connections designed to decrease future
7 offenses, reduce costs and overcrowding of prisons, and to
8 increase positive outcomes; and

9 WHEREAS, developing a method to coordinate
10 officials, agencies, and programs of law enforcement, criminal
11 justice, mental health, and corrections could reduce costs for
12 the criminal justice system and corrections in the care and
13 treatment of this population; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge state leaders and
16 state governmental departments, agencies, officials, and
17 entities to study the problems and diversion solutions
18 relating to drug offenders receiving prison sentences before
19 treatment options are exhausted and identify opportunities for
20 community rehabilitation and treatment to maximize the success
21 of recovery options and programs in lieu of imposing a prison
22 sentence.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this
24 resolution be provided to Governor Kay Ivey for distribution
25 to the appropriate state agencies, departments, and entities
26 in order to convey our sentiments on this important issue.