

1 SB333  
2 175239-1  
3 By Senators Singleton and Ward  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 08-MAR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: Currently, an eight-member Permanent Joint  
9 Legislative Committee is formed to assist in  
10 implementing the recommendations of the Legislative  
11 Prison Task Force.

12 This bill would increase the membership of  
13 the committee from 8 to 10.  
14

15 A BILL  
16 TO BE ENTITLED  
17 AN ACT  
18

19 To amend Section 29-2-20, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
20 amended by Act 2015-185, 2015 Regular Session, relating to the  
21 Permanent Joint Legislative Committee; to increase the number  
22 of members serving on the committee.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 29-2-20, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
25 amended by Act 2015-185, 2015 Regular Session, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 "§29-2-20.

1           "(a) A permanent legislative committee which shall  
2 be composed of ~~eight~~ 10 members, two of whom shall be ex  
3 officio members and ~~six~~ eight of whom shall be appointed  
4 members, ~~three each~~ four to be appointed by the President of  
5 the Senate and Speaker of the House, who shall both serve as  
6 the ex officio members, shall be formed to assist in realizing  
7 the recommendations of the Legislative Prison Task Force and  
8 examine all aspects of the operations of the Department of  
9 Corrections. The chairman of the committee shall be selected  
10 by and from among the membership. The committee shall make a  
11 diligent inquiry and a full examination of Alabama's present  
12 and long term prison needs and they shall file reports of  
13 their findings and recommendations to the Alabama Legislature  
14 not later than the fifteenth legislative day of each regular  
15 session that the committee continues to exist.

16           "(b) The committee shall study and address mental  
17 health issues for prisoners reentering the community after a  
18 term of imprisonment in order to streamline the sharing of  
19 critical mental health information and in order to address  
20 barriers to accessing mental health treatment for such  
21 prisoners. The committee shall report such findings to the  
22 Legislature no later than April 20, 2016, and shall work in  
23 conjunction with the following in studying and addressing such  
24 issues:

25           "(1) Department of Corrections;

26           "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;

27           "(3) Department of Mental Health;

1           "(4) Administrative Office of Courts;  
2           "(5) Office of Prosecution Services;  
3           "(6) Office of the Attorney General;  
4           "(7) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;  
5           "(8) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;  
6           "(9) Alabama Probate Judges Association;  
7           "(10) Alabama Sheriffs' Association;  
8           "(11) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;  
9           "(12) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;  
10          "(13) Department of Public Health;  
11          "(14) Office of the Governor;  
12          "(15) Alabama District Attorneys Association;  
13          "(16) Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force; and  
14          "(17) Any other advocacy groups as determined by the  
15 committee.

16           "(c) The committee shall study and address issues  
17 related to felony restitution collection in order to improve  
18 rates of collection for restitution obligations in felony  
19 cases and establish best practices relating to a defendant's  
20 ability to pay obligations owed. The committee shall report  
21 such findings to the Legislature no later than April 20, 2016,  
22 and shall work in conjunction with the following in studying  
23 and addressing such issues:

24           "(1) Department of Corrections;  
25           "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;  
26           "(3) Administrative Office of Courts;  
27           "(4) Office of Prosecution Services;

1           "(5) Office of the Attorney General;  
2           "(6) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;  
3           "(7) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;  
4           "(8) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;  
5           "(9) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;  
6           "(10) Alabama Sheriffs' Association;  
7           "(11) Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission;  
8           "(12) The Alabama Circuit Clerk's Association;  
9           "(13) Two crime victims' rights advocates designated  
10 by the Attorney General;

11           "(14) Two members from the Alabama District  
12 Attorneys Association, of which one shall be from a largely  
13 populated metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be  
14 from a small, rurally populated judicial circuit; and

15           "(15) Any other advocacy groups as determined by the  
16 committee.

17           "(d) The committee shall study and address capacity  
18 issues within the Department of Corrections to include, but  
19 not limited to, the issue of design capacity and operational  
20 or functional capacity, as well as the construction of new  
21 prison facilities and the renovation of current correctional  
22 facilities as they relate to prison overcrowding and public  
23 safety. The committee shall report such findings to the  
24 Legislature no later than April 20, 2016, and shall work in  
25 conjunction with the following in studying and addressing such  
26 issues:

27           "(1) Department of Corrections;

1           "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;  
2           "(3) Department of Mental Health;  
3           "(4) Department of Public Health;  
4           "(5) Administrative Office of Courts;  
5           "(6) Office of Prosecution Services;  
6           "(7) Office of the Attorney General;  
7           "(8) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;  
8           "(9) Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force;  
9           "(10) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;  
10          "(11) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;  
11          "(12) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;  
12          "(13) Two members from the Alabama Sheriffs'  
13 Association, of which one shall be from a largely populated  
14 metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be from a  
15 small, rurally populated judicial circuit; and  
16          "(14) Two members from the Alabama District  
17 Attorneys Association, of which one shall be from a largely  
18 populated metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be  
19 from a small, rurally populated judicial circuit.  
20          "(e) The studies and collaborating partners provided  
21 for in this section shall reflect the racial, gender,  
22 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state."  
23          Section 2. This act shall become effective  
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.