

1 HB270
2 155845-1
3 By Representatives Melton, Colston, Moore (M), Rogers, Scott,
4 McCampbell, Buskey, Coleman-Evans, Warren, Jackson, England,
5 Givan, Hall, Grimsley, Bracy, Forte and Boyd (Constitutional
6 Amendment)
7 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
8 First Read: 16-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law the Governor has the
9 authority to decide whether the State of Alabama
10 shall participate in the expansion of Medicaid as
11 provided by the Patient Protection and Affordable
12 Care Act.

13 This bill would propose an amendment to the
14 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to allow the
15 voters of this state to determine whether the State
16 of Alabama shall participate in the expansion of
17 Medicaid as provided by the Patient Protection and
18 Affordable Care Act; and the Governor, within 30
19 days after the ratification of this amendment,
20 shall enroll the State of Alabama in the Medicaid
21 expansion as provided by the Patient Protection and
22 Affordable Care Act.

23
24 A BILL
25 TO BE ENTITLED
26 AN ACT
27

1 To propose an amendment to the Constitution of
2 Alabama of 1901, to allow the voters of this state to
3 determine whether the State of Alabama shall participate in
4 the expansion of Medicaid as provided by the Patient
5 Protection and Affordable Care Act; and the Governor, within
6 30 days after the ratification of this amendment, shall enroll
7 the State of Alabama in the Medicaid expansion as provided by
8 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. The following amendment to the
11 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and
12 shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a
13 majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in
14 accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution
15 of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

16 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

17 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the
18 following:

19 (1) The residents of this state are suffering
20 because of their lack of access to health care.

21 (2) Broad access to health care leads to preventive
22 care, which produces healthier families, a healthier
23 workforce, and an all around healthier state.

24 (3) The federal government will pay 100 percent of
25 the Medicaid expansion for three years starting in 2014 under
26 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. After that

1 time, the federal government's share will drop to 95 percent
2 in 2017, and ultimately to 90 percent in 2020.

3 (4) With the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of
4 thousands of Alabamians will have access to critical
5 preventive care versus acute care for the first time in their
6 lives.

7 (5) Expansion of Medicaid will result in reduced
8 state spending on health care related services to those
9 previously uninsured residents with incomes below 133 percent
10 of the federal poverty limit.

11 (6) In addition to enhancing access to health care,
12 expansion of Medicaid would promote revenue and economic
13 activity in this state, resulting in the preservation and
14 creation of jobs.

15 Section 2 (a) The State of Alabama shall participate
16 in the Medicaid program made available to the states under the
17 "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," Public Law
18 111-148, March 23, 2010, as amended by the "Health Care and
19 Education Reconciliation Act of 2010," Public Law 111-152,
20 March 30, 2010.

21 (b) The Governor, within 30 days after the
22 ratification of this amendment, shall enroll the State of
23 Alabama in the Medicaid expansion as provided by the Patient
24 Protection and Affordable Care Act.

25 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment
26 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
27 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284

1 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of
2 Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this
3 state.

4 Section 3. The appropriate election official shall
5 assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional
6 amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the
7 following description of the substance or subject matter of
8 the proposed constitutional amendment:

9 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
10 Alabama of 1901, to allow the voters of this state to
11 determine whether the State of Alabama shall participate in
12 the expansion of Medicaid as provided by the Patient
13 Protection and Affordable Care Act; and require the Governor,
14 within 30 days after the ratification of this amendment, to
15 enroll the State of Alabama in the Medicaid expansion as
16 provided by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

17 "Proposed by Act _____."

18 This description shall be followed by the following
19 language:

20 "Yes () No ()."