

1 SJR95  
2 201879-2  
3 By Senators Whatley and Price  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 28-MAY-19

1 201879-2:n:05/28/2019:KBH/cr LSA2019-1912R1

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8 ENCOURAGING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO  
9 DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR REMOVING DEBRIS AFTER A  
10 NATURAL DISASTER.

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12 WHEREAS, every year the residents of the State of  
13 Alabama are faced with the possibility of a natural disaster  
14 destroying their homes and affecting their communities, most  
15 often by tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods; and

16 WHEREAS, when a community begins the rebuilding  
17 process after a natural disaster, in addition to coping with  
18 the devastating loss of life, often one of the greatest  
19 challenges to overcome is how to properly and timely remove  
20 disaster-related debris, which can be left behind for weeks or  
21 even months following the natural disaster; and

22 WHEREAS, disaster debris typically includes downed  
23 trees, limbs, shrubs, solid waste such as household garbage  
24 and personal belongings, construction and demolition debris  
25 such as entire residential structures and their contents,  
26 vehicles, food waste, household and outdoor appliances and  
27 equipment, and all types of hazardous waste, including

cleaning agents, pesticides, and pool chemicals, which can be highly toxic to residents and volunteers assisting in the cleanup and rebuild of the area; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the recovery of the area, debris removal is a vital part of the process and proper consideration and management of the removal is necessary to ensure the debris does not pose future threats to the health and safety of residents and the environment; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide disaster response and assist in the management of debris clearance, removal, and disposal; and

WHEREAS, at the state and local level, the Executive branch, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Department of Transportation, the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, the League of Municipalities, local emergency management agencies, along with other state and local agencies, provide critical emergency assistance to storm-ravaged areas in the state, but are limited in their debris removal assistance after the storms have passed; and

WHEREAS, to better assist communities in such a crucial time of need, a comprehensive debris removal policy that includes, but is not limited to, the cost of debris removal, the responsibilities of each assisting local, state, or federal agency in the debris removal process, and a time

1 frame for completion of the debris removal would greatly  
2 improve the likelihood that a community affected by a natural  
3 disaster can timely begin to rebuild and move forward after a  
4 natural disaster; and

5 WHEREAS, whenever possible, the local, state, or  
6 federal agencies involved in the debris removal process are  
7 urged to use local contractors to implement and execute the  
8 debris removal and to facilitate other assistance in the  
9 aftermath of a natural disaster in accordance with the  
10 policies created and established by the comprehensive debris  
11 removal policy; and

12 WHEREAS, without a proper comprehensive debris  
13 removal policy after a natural disaster, managing potentially  
14 huge volumes of mixed debris can be complicated for an already  
15 overwhelmed community; a comprehensive debris removal policy  
16 outlining the costs, agency responsibilities, and management  
17 of the process will provide better preparedness to restore  
18 public services and ensure the public health and safety in the  
19 aftermath of a disaster and better position communities to  
20 receive the full level of assistance available to them from  
21 all local, state, and federal sources; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we encourage all local, state,  
24 and federal agencies equipped to assist with debris removal  
25 after a natural disaster to work together to develop a  
26 comprehensive policy for removing debris from communities  
27 affected by a natural disaster.

