

HJR34 ENROLLED



1 HJR34
2 I3J5RZW-3
3 By Representative Simpson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 ESTABLISHING THE CRIME CLEARANCE DATA TASK FORCE.

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5 WHEREAS, a 2024 Council on Criminal Justice Crime
6 Trends Working Group report identified significant gaps in
7 the nation's crime data which make it difficult for
8 policymakers and practitioners to develop and implement
9 tailored and timely interventions that are used to make
10 communities safer; and

11 WHEREAS, crime clearance rates are an important piece
12 of crime data that predict, albeit imperfectly, the
13 likelihood that a perpetrator will be caught and a victim
14 will have a chance to obtain justice; and

15 WHEREAS, crimes are most commonly cleared through an
16 arrest; clearance rates may be calculated in a jurisdiction
17 by dividing the total number of crimes cleared each year by
18 the total number of crimes committed that year; and

19 WHEREAS, clearance rates have declined dramatically
20 over the last half century, with murder cases only solved
21 approximately half the time now, as opposed to an
22 approximately 90 percent clearance rate in the 1950s;
23 property crimes are solved less than 15 percent of the time;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, low clearance rates send a message to
26 criminals that they have a good chance of escaping justice;
27 low clearance rates do not deter crime; and

28 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 local law enforcement

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29 agencies, mostly representing less populous jurisdictions,
30 did not report crime data in 2022 for inclusion in the state
31 Uniform Crime Reporting program that informs the Federal
32 Bureau of Investigation's annual crime reports; the lack of
33 reporting and resulting gaps in data may be attributed to
34 lack of resources in many law enforcement agencies, as 21
35 percent of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United
36 States have four or fewer officers, and another 24 percent
37 have only five to nine officers; and

38 WHEREAS, improving clearance rates should be a
39 statewide priority; current data should be studied to
40 determine current clearance rate trends in Alabama and set
41 the framework for timely and accurate reporting to identify
42 continued gaps and possible improvements; now therefore,

43 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
44 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is established the
45 Crime Clearance Data Task Force to study crime clearance
46 rates, their impact on deterrence, and data reporting gaps.

47 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of
48 all of the following:

49 (1) One member of law enforcement, appointed by the
50 Governor.

51 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the
52 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the
53 Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

54 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
55 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

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56 and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by
57 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

58 (4) The Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or
59 his or her designee.

60 (5) The Chair of the House of Representatives
61 Judiciary Committee, or his or her designee.

62 (6) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law
63 Enforcement Agency, or his or her designee.

64 (7) One sheriff appointed by the Alabama Sheriff's
65 Association.

66 (8) One police chief appointed by the Alabama
67 Association of Chiefs of Police.

68 (9) One district attorney appointed by the Alabama
69 District Attorneys Association.

70 (10) One circuit judge appointed by the Alabama
71 Circuit Judges' Association.

72 (11) One county commissioner appointed by the
73 Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

74 (12) One mayor appointed by the Alabama League of
75 Municipalities.

76 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
77 appointments to assure the task force membership is
78 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
79 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

80 (c) The task force shall have the following duties:

81 (1) Study crime clearance rates and their impact on
82 deterrence.



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83 (2) Review current policies, practices, and available
84 data on crime clearance rates, including, but not limited
85 to, any reporting requirements and resulting data gaps.

86 (3) Provide recommendations to the Legislature for
87 legislation and other policy changes to address clearance
88 data reporting gaps, improve case clearances, and deter
89 crime. In developing recommendations, the task force shall
90 confer with the relevant experts and draw upon rigorous
91 evidence.

92 (d) The first meeting of the task force shall be no
93 later than May 1, 2026, at which time the members shall
94 elect a chair and vice chair from among the membership. The
95 task force may then meet as necessary to conduct business.

96 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
97 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate
98 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the
99 work of the task force as necessary.

100 (f) (1) The legislative members of the task force
101 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per
102 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting
103 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution
104 of Alabama 2022.

105 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force
106 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
107 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force
108 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing
109 authority.



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110 (g) The task force shall prepare a report of its
111 findings, conclusions, and any recommendations for any
112 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than
113 November 1, 2026. Upon filing its report with the
114 Legislature, the task force shall stand dissolved and
115 discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

116 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
117 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State
118 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
119 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other
120 documents produced throughout the duration of the task
121 force.



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134 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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139 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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142 House of Representatives

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144 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
145 and was passed by the House 29-Jan-26.

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147 John Treadwell
148 Clerk

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154 Senate

12-Feb-26

155 Adopted

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