

1 HJR832
2 120334-1
3 By Representative DeMarco
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 06-APR-10

CREATING THE ALABAMA INNOVATION COUNCIL STUDY
COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, amidst increasing economic competition from other states and countries, Alabama must aggressively pursue and leverage science, technology, and innovation as a means to grow and diversify its economy; and

WHEREAS, given the broad scope and interdependence of science-, technology-, and innovation-related activities such as targeted research investments, commercialization efforts, and the development of high technology enterprises, sustained and coordinated statewide leadership is needed to strategically advance an Alabama innovation agenda; and

WHEREAS, it is in Alabama's best interest to encourage research, innovation, and high technology enterprises and to enable Alabama's research universities to better promote, educate, and train researchers and research support staff in scientific fields of study; and

WHEREAS, the general welfare and material well-being of the citizens of Alabama depend on immediate action to

1 develop a strong entrepreneurial economy characterized by
2 science, technology, and innovation; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Innovation Council
5 Study Commission is established. The Commission shall consist
6 of 26 members as follows: the Presidents of Alabama A&M
7 University, Alabama State University, Auburn University,
8 Tuskegee University, The University of Alabama, The University
9 of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in
10 Huntsville, and the University of South Alabama; seven members
11 appointed by the Governor, who shall be principals of
12 preeminent Alabama businesses; four members appointed by the
13 Lieutenant Governor, who shall be principals of preeminent
14 Alabama businesses; five members appointed by the Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives, who shall be principals of
16 preeminent Alabama businesses; the legislative sponsor of this
17 resolution, who shall serve in an advisory capacity only; and
18 the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher
19 Education, who shall serve in an advisory capacity only. The
20 Membership of the Commission shall be inclusive and reflect
21 the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic
22 diversity of the State. The Commission shall report to the
23 Legislature by the second legislative day of the 2011 Regular
24 Session the extent to which the Commission has complied with
25 the diversity provisions provided for in this resolution. All
26 appointments of members of the Commission shall be made no
27 later than 30 days after the date of final passage of this

1 resolution. Ther Commission shall hold an initial meeting no
2 later than 60 days after the date of final passage of this
3 resolution. The initial meeting of the Commission shall be
4 called by the legislative sponsor of this resolution, who
5 shall provide notice of the meeting to each member of the
6 Commission. The Commission shall elect a chair and other
7 officers and adopt appropriate procedures at the initial
8 meeting of the Commission. The Commission shall act on an
9 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the
10 Commission in attendance, providing that neither the
11 legislative sponsor of this resolution nor the Executive
12 Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall
13 have the power to vote or be included in the determination of
14 a majority of the members in attendance. The Commission shall
15 study all aspects of creating a statewide innovation council
16 (Council). The issues shall involve, but not be limited to,
17 whether the creation of a Council would make Alabama a more
18 desirable state in which to conduct, facilitate, support,
19 fund, and perform science, technology, and innovation research
20 development, and commercialization; whether an innovation
21 council would facilitate the creation, attraction, retention,
22 growth, and enhancement of both existing and new science,
23 technology, and innovation companies in Alabama; whether the
24 creation of a Council would make Alabama a leader in science,
25 technology, and innovation; and whether the creation of a
26 Council would create new jobs, retain quality jobs, foster
27 economic growth, advance scientific, technological, and

1 innovative knowledge, and improve the quality of life of the
2 citizens of Alabama.

3 The Legislature, the Legislative Reference Service,
4 and the Legislative Fiscal Office are hereby directed to
5 assist the Commission in the performance of its functions and,
6 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality,
7 to furnish such information and advice as are necessary for
8 the members of the Commission to perform their functions. Upon
9 the request of the chair, the Secretary of the Senate and the
10 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide necessary
11 clerical assistance for the work of the Commission. The
12 Commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and
13 recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 1,
14 2010, and shall submit a final report of its findings and
15 recommendations, to include any proposed legislative
16 instruments, to the Legislature no later than the first
17 legislative day of the 2011 Regular Session, whereupon the
18 Commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further
19 duties and liabilities. In carrying out its prescribed
20 functions, the Commission shall have the power to solicit,
21 accept, receive, and expend funds from any private source and,
22 subject to available funds, may employ and provide for the
23 compensation of a staff, provided that no member of the staff
24 may be an employee of the State of Alabama. Members of the
25 Commission shall serve without compensation.