

1 SJR97
2 142735-2
3 By Senators Waggoner, Taylor, Reed, Brooks, Williams,
4 Brewbaker, Whatley, Scofield, McGill, Glover, Allen, Pittman,
5 Bussman, and Bedford
6 RFD:
7 First Read: 08-MAY-12

8 CREATING AN INTERIM LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON
9 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND AN ALABAMA BAR ASSOCIATION STUDY
10 GROUP TO RECOMMEND REFORMS TO THE FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ACT.
11

12 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature finds as follows:

13 (1) The Alabama Fair Campaign Practices Act,
14 initially adopted in 1988, has undergone recent positive
15 amendments designed to ensure greater transparency and
16 accountability by those who participate in Alabama's election
17 process.

18 (2) In particular, Act 2010-765 made it unlawful,
19 for the first time, for a political action committee to
20 contribute or transfer funds to any other political action
21 committee. Act 2011-697 provides for the disclosure of certain
22 "electioneering communications." Act 2011-687 requires
23 principal campaign committees and political action committees
24 to file more timely reports of contributions and expenditures,
25 including monthly filing for one year prior to the election,
26 weekly filing beginning the month preceding the election, and
27 daily filing beginning eight days prior to the date of the

1 election for any contributions received in excess of five
2 thousand dollars (\$5,000).

3 (3) Moreover, beginning with the 2014 election
4 cycle, Act 2011-687 requires all statements, reports of
5 contributions, and expenditures to be filed electronically
6 over the Internet with this information to be stored in a
7 format created by the Secretary of State's office and
8 accessible by the public through the Secretary of State's
9 website.

10 (4) Despite these recent changes to the Fair
11 Campaign Practices Act, it continues to be necessary to study
12 the act in order to find ways to improve campaign finance laws
13 in a manner that will be beneficial to the public and to the
14 candidates participating in the election process.

15 (5) It is important that the Fair Campaign Practices
16 Act be both clear and understandable by the public and
17 candidates who wish to run for public office.

18 (6) Even more importantly is that the act be
19 enforceable by law enforcement in the event political action
20 committees, principal campaign committees, or members of the
21 public take measures in violation of the Fair Campaign
22 Practices Act.

23 (7) Sufficient time has passed since the recent
24 amendments were adopted to the Fair Campaign Practices Act,
25 and it is time to formalize and bring focus to the act in
26 order to seek ways to improve its effectiveness as well as the

1 adherence to the strict letter of the law of the act; now
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created an Interim
5 Legislative Study Committee on Campaign Finance Reform to
6 consist of the following members:

7 (1) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
8 (2) Chair of the Senate Rules Committee.
9 (3) Chair of the Senate Constitution, Campaign
10 Finance, Ethics, and Elections Committee.

11 (4) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
12 (5) Two members of the Senate appointed by the
13 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

14 (6) Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.
15 (7) Chair of the House Constitution, Campaigns and
16 Elections Committee.

17 (8) Chair of the House Ethics and Campaign Finance
18 Committee.

19 (9) The Speaker of the House.
20 (10) Two members of the House appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House.

22 The members of the committee shall serve without
23 compensation. The committee shall meet at such times as
24 necessary to review potential amendments to the Alabama Fair
25 Campaign Practices Act to be introduced during the 2013
26 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. The committee

1 shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further duty and
2 liability upon the commencement of the 2013 Regular Session.

3 In addition, there shall be established through the
4 Alabama State Bar Association a Study Group on Campaign
5 Finance Reform (Bar Study Group) which shall consist of such
6 members as the President of the Alabama State Bar shall
7 appoint to work with and assist the members of the committee
8 in studying and recommending changes to the Alabama Fair
9 Campaign Practices Act. The Bar Study Group shall make its
10 recommendations to the committee during a time and in a manner
11 which shall make it possible for the committee to consider the
12 measures for possible introduction in the Regular Session of
13 the Alabama Legislature during 2013.