

1 HJR286
2 147607-5
3 By Representatives Fincher, Boothe, Tuggle, Laird, McCampbell
4 and Williams (P)
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 11-APR-13

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8 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
9 COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GOVERNOR
10 BENTLEY'S DIRECTIVE TO THE ALABAMA WATER AGENCIES WORKING
11 GROUP.
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13 WHEREAS, evidence of the state's stewardship role
14 with regard to water is found in the Alabama Water Resources
15 Act, commencing at Section 9-10B-2, Code of Alabama 1975; and

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature has recognized that the
17 waters of this state, as defined in the Alabama Water
18 Resources Act, are a natural resource of the state and subject
19 to the state's sovereign power to plan and manage the
20 withdrawal and use of those waters, under law, in order to
21 protect public health, safety, and welfare by promoting
22 economic growth, mitigating the harmful effects of drought,
23 resolving conflicts among competing water users, achieving
24 balance between consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water,
25 encouraging conservation, preventing significant degradation
26 of natural environments, and enhancing the productivity of
27 water-related activities; and

1 WHEREAS, the state, as a steward for this valuable
2 resource, must plan and manage this resource to ensure its
3 availability for current and future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide water management
5 plan will ensure that the waters of this state are managed
6 fairly, efficiently, sustainably, and productively in a manner
7 that satisfies economic and environmental goals in order to
8 prevent water from becoming a limiting factor in the general
9 improvement of social welfare; and

10 WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide water management
11 plan would enhance the state's ability to protect this
12 resource from federal and interstate encroachment; and

13 WHEREAS, the state needs to ensure that federal
14 agencies clearly understand this stewardship role in all water
15 and reservoir management plans and activities; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify the state's role
17 in the protection and restoration of public waters; and

18 WHEREAS, Governor Bentley has taken the initiative,
19 through his April 18, 2012, letter to the Alabama Water
20 Agencies Working Group, to address the challenges that Alabama
21 faces to sustainably manage the blessings of our water
22 resources for the people of Alabama with the explicit
23 requirement to produce a recommendation for a statewide water
24 management plan by December 1, 2013; and

25 WHEREAS, there is a recognition of the
26 responsibility to provide additional funding and staffing
27 needed by the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group and other

1 agencies to support this effort, and to support unbiased
2 scientific data collection; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby express our support
5 for and endorsement of Governor Bentley's letter to the
6 Alabama Water Agencies Working Group calling for a
7 recommendation for developing a statewide water management
8 plan.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we stand ready to take
10 up and consider recommendations for legislation necessary to
11 implement a statewide water management plan upon presentation
12 to the Legislature.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby request that
14 the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group member agencies,
15 working with other agencies as necessary, provide an estimate,
16 as available, of the funding needed to accomplish the tasks
17 specified in Governor Bentley's April 18, 2012, letter to the
18 Working Group, including an estimate of the funding required
19 to gather data associated with the surface water, groundwater,
20 and instream flows/ecosystems in order to provide a full
21 understanding of the State of Alabama's water resources.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama Water
23 Agencies Working Group is requested to work with all
24 stakeholders and agencies to build a common understanding of
25 the state's stewardship role with regard to water which is
26 reflected in ongoing efforts to enhance water resource
27 planning and management in this state.

