

1 SJR20  
2 156450-2  
3 By Senator Ward  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 16-JAN-14

8 CREATING THE ALABAMA PRISON REFORM TASK FORCE.  
9

10 WHEREAS, overcrowding and understaffing of Alabama  
11 prisons have created a potential federal takeover of the state  
12 prison system; and

13 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature needs to take  
14 proactive steps to avert the looming overcrowding crisis of  
15 the state prison system; and

16 WHEREAS, the Alabama Corrections System is the most  
17 overcrowded in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Alabama spends less per inmate than any  
19 other state corrections system in the nation; and

20 WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of state  
21 government is to provide for the public safety of its citizens  
22 and victims of crime; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama  
25 Prison Reform Task Force to be comprised of the following  
26 members:

1                   (1) One member of the Alabama Senate appointed by  
2 the Lieutenant Governor.

3                   (2) Three members appointed by the Alabama District  
4 Attorney's Association.

5                   (3) One member appointed by the Victims of Crime and  
6 Leniency (VOCAL).

7                   (4) One member of the Alabama House of  
8 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives.

10                  (5) One representative of the Attorney General's  
11 Office appointed by the Attorney General.

12                  (6) The Commissioner the Department of Corrections.

13                  (7) One representative of the Department of Public  
14 Safety appointed by the Director of Public Safety.

15                  (8) Five representatives of the Governor's office  
16 appointed by the Governor.

17                  (9) Three representatives appointed by the chair of  
18 the Joint Prison Task Force.

19                  (10) One member of the House of Representatives  
20 appointed by the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

21                  (11) One member of the Senate appointed by the Chair  
22 of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

23                  (12) One member of the Senate appointed by the  
24 Senate President Pro Tempore.

25                  (13) The Director of the Alabama Law Institute.

1                   (14) Three representatives of the Judicial  
2 Department appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
3 Court.

4                   (15) One attorney licensed in Alabama appointed by  
5 the President of the Alabama Bar.

6                   (16) One representative appointed by the Alabama  
7 Sheriff's Association.

8                   The Governor shall appoint the chair once all  
9 appointments have been made to the task force.

10                  The task force membership shall be inclusive and  
11 shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural,  
12 and economic diversity of the state, as well as the diversity  
13 and demographics of the Alabama prison population.

14                  The task force shall study and identify causes and  
15 potential legislative solutions for the overcrowding of the  
16 prison system and the understaffing of corrections personnel  
17 in the system.

18                  The task force shall study a broad range of issues  
19 related to prison inmate overpopulation including, but not  
20 limited to: Court procedures and sentencing; data on reported  
21 crimes and arrests; problem-solving suggestions and policies  
22 of the courts; felony and parole policies; prison admissions  
23 and length of stay; community work center programs; recidivism  
24 rates; and alternative drug court sentencing. The task force  
25 shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations  
26 for proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than the

1 15th day of the 2015 Regular Session, where upon it shall  
2 stand dissolved and discharged of any further duties.

3 Each nonlegislative member of the task force may be  
4 reimbursed for expenses related to attending meetings  
5 consistent with the policies of the various appointing  
6 authorities.

7 Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of the  
8 Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide  
9 necessary clerical assistance for the work of the task force.  
10 Each legislative member of the task force shall be entitled to  
11 his or her regular legislative compensation, per diem, and  
12 travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of  
13 the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of the  
14 Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid  
15 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by  
16 means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State  
17 Treasury.