

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

1 SJR20

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4 ENROLLED, SJR20,

5 CREATING THE ALABAMA PRISON REFORM TASK FORCE.
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7 WHEREAS, overcrowding and understaffing of Alabama
8 prisons have created a potential federal takeover of the state
9 prison system; and

10 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature needs to take
11 proactive steps to avert the looming overcrowding crisis of
12 the state prison system; and

13 WHEREAS, the Alabama Corrections System is the most
14 overcrowded in the United States; and

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

17 WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of state
18 government is to provide for the public safety of its citizens
19 and victims of crime; now therefore,

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

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

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

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

5 (4) One member of the Alabama House of
6 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (5) One representative of the Attorney General's
9 Office appointed by the Attorney General.

10 (6) The Commissioner the Department of Corrections.

11 (7) One representative of the Department of Public
12 Safety appointed by the Director of Public Safety.

13 (8) Five representatives of the Governor's office
14 appointed by the Governor.

15 (9) Three representatives appointed by the chair of
16 the Joint Prison Task Force.

17 (10) One member of the House of Representatives
18 appointed by the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

19 (11) One member of the Senate appointed by the Chair
20 of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

21 (12) One member of the Senate appointed by the
22 Senate President Pro Tempore.

23 (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

1 for proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than the
2 15th day of the 2015 Regular Session, where upon it shall
3 stand dissolved and discharged of any further duties.

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

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR20

Senate 16-JAN-14

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 11-FEB-14

By: Senator Ward