

1       SJR53  
2       158728-1  
3       By Senator Ward  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 18-FEB-14

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8 CREATING A JOINT LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATION COMMITTEE.

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10 WHEREAS, the Alabama Constitution establishes the  
11 Legislature as a separate department of the state government  
12 vested with the legislative power of the State of Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, the Alabama Constitution further enumerates  
14 the duties and responsibilities of the Legislature; and

15 WHEREAS, the Legislative Council, in conjunction  
16 with the Alabama Law Institute, has hosted a Legislative  
17 Orientation Program prior to the beginning of each quadrennium  
18 since 1974; and

19 WHEREAS, it is incumbent that each member of the  
20 Legislature be provided with the necessary training to enable  
21 each member to provide the best representation for the  
22 citizenry of the State of Alabama; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Joint  
25 Legislative Orientation Committee.

26 (a) The committee shall be composed of the following  
27 members:

1 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

2 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

3 (3) The President of the Alabama Law Institute, who  
4 shall also serve as chair.

5 (4) The Secretary of the Senate.

6 (5) The Clerk of the House of Representatives.

7 (b) The Legislative Reference Service, Legislative  
8 Fiscal Office, Examiners of Public Accounts, and the Alabama  
9 Law Institute shall serve as staff for the committee and  
10 assist with the implementation of the Orientation as directed  
11 by the committee.

12 (c) A Legislative Orientation shall be held in the  
13 State House in Montgomery, Alabama, after the general election  
14 in November 2014, and prior to the second Tuesday in January  
15 2015.

16 (d) The goals of the Orientation are to:

17 (1) Provide training in the legislative process.

18 (2) Provide training in the bill drafting process.

19 (3) Provide training in parliamentary procedure.

20 (4) Provide current information on the economic  
21 status of the State of Alabama.

22 (5) Provide training in the State budgeting process.

23 (6) Provide training on the Alabama Constitution and  
24 the Code of Alabama.

25 (7) Provide information on significant issues as  
26 identified by the committee.

1           (e) The committee shall be charged with the  
2 following duties and responsibilities:

3           (1) Setting the date of the Orientation.

4           (2) Planning the agenda and selecting the speakers  
5 for the Orientation.

6           (3) Developing and overseeing the budget for the  
7 Orientation.

8           Each legislative member of the committee shall be  
9 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, per  
10 diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a  
11 meeting of the committee in accordance with existing law  
12 through the 2014 General Election. Beginning with the terms of  
13 office commencing immediately after the 2014 General Election,  
14 each legislative member shall be entitled to the compensation  
15 and reimbursement provided pursuant to Amendment 871 of the  
16 Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid  
17 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by  
18 means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State  
19 Treasury.