

1 HJR226  
2 169116-2  
3 By Representatives Rowe, Harper, Weaver, Hill (M), Pettus,  
4 Wood, Patterson, Hill (J), Ball, Farley, Fridy and Faulkner  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 12-MAY-15

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
3           CREATING THE COMMISSION ON TRUANT, AT-RISK,  
4 DELINQUENT YOUTH.  
5

6           WHEREAS, the multiple problems of truant, at-risk,  
7 and delinquent youth are a growing concern of educators,  
8 service providers, and citizens of the state; and

9           WHEREAS, truancy is a major indicator of a youth's  
10 withdrawal from school and can lead to more serious problems  
11 for these youths and their communities, including juvenile  
12 court referrals and long-term involvement in the justice  
13 system; and

14           WHEREAS, keeping a child in school reduces the  
15 likelihood that the child will end up in the juvenile justice  
16 system where there is a high risk of recidivism; and

17           WHEREAS, criminalization of truancy and use of  
18 formal court interventions is an ineffective method of  
19 ensuring students will return to school and often acts to  
20 further alienate students from school; and

21           WHEREAS, local communities need to significantly  
22 increase their ability to effectively supervise and educate  
23 this truant, at-risk, and delinquent population and to assist  
24 these youth in developing appropriate behavior in order to

1       avoid becoming part of the criminal justice system and to  
2       achieve academic and career success; and

3               WHEREAS, research supports the concept that  
4       intervention and prevention programs, including mental health  
5       and substance abuse treatment, have long-term benefits and are  
6       more cost-effective than detention, incarceration, or social  
7       dependence; and

8               WHEREAS, cooperation and coordination among agencies  
9       and community-based organizations that have jurisdiction over,  
10      or provide services to, truant, at-risk, and delinquent youth  
11      provide the best chance for ensuring the educational and  
12      career success of that population; and

13              WHEREAS, a detailed study of systems that impact  
14      that population can provide complete information to guide the  
15      development and implementation of programs beneficial to such  
16      youth; now therefore,

17              BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18      HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is hereby created the  
19      Commission on Truant, At-risk, Delinquent Youth to study  
20      methods to keep children out of the juvenile justice system by  
21      improving related laws, regulations, and procedures. The  
22      commission shall be comprised of the following members:

23              (1) The Chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary  
24      Committees, or their designees.

1           (2) One member of the House of Representatives to be  
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3           (3) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the  
4 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

5           (4) One member to be appointed by the Governor.

6           (5) One school resource officer appointed by the  
7 Alabama Association of Police Chiefs.

8           (6) One representative of the Juvenile Probation  
9 Officers Association to be selected by the association.

10          (7) The Executive Director of the Department of  
11 Youth Services (DYS), or his or her designee.

12          (8) One juvenile judge to be selected by the  
13 Juvenile Judges Association.

14          (9) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
15 Human Resources, or his or her designee.

16          (10) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
17 Mental Health, or his or her designee.

18          (11) The State Superintendent of Education, or his  
19 or her designee.

20          (12) Two superintendents of K-12 public schools, one  
21 representing a city system and one representing a county  
22 system, selected by the School Superintendents of Alabama.

23          (13) The President of the State Bar Association, or  
24 his or her designee.

1           (14) The Executive Director of the Alabama District  
2 Attorney's Association, or his or her designee.

3           (15) Two experts in the fields of truancy, at-risk  
4 youth, or alternative education, one appointed by each Chair  
5 of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

6           (16) One representative from VOICES for Alabama's  
7 Children.

8           (17) One representative from Alabama Appleseed.

9           (18) One representative from Alabama Children's  
10 First.

11           (19) The Executive Director of the Alabama Network  
12 of Family Resource Centers, or his or her designee.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor shall  
14 appoint the chair once all appointments have been made to the  
15 commission. Membership shall be inclusive and shall reflect  
16 the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic  
17 diversity of the state, as well as the diversity and  
18 demographics of the K-12 and juvenile justice populations.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall  
20 study the complicated issues and identify causes of truancy  
21 and potential legislative solutions to reduce the reliance on  
22 juvenile justice referrals of delinquent youth. The commission  
23 shall study a broad range of issues related to at-risk youth  
24 including, but not limited to: Truancy; data on reported  
25 crimes and arrests of delinquent juveniles; juvenile court

1 procedures; behavioral health, mental health, and substance  
2 abuse treatment needs; problem-solving suggestions and  
3 policies of the courts; recidivism rates; and alternative  
4 sentencing. The commission shall consider the following:

5 (1) The social and academic needs of truant,  
6 at-risk, and delinquent youth, including, but not limited to,  
7 the collection of county-specific data on truancy and juvenile  
8 court referrals.

9 (2) The effectiveness of existing social and  
10 academic programs in this state that serve these youth  
11 populations and where additional resources are needed.

12 (3) Evidence-based practices and programs that have  
13 been successful in meeting the social and academic needs of  
14 these youth populations, including, but not limited to,  
15 Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS).

16 (4) The current level of state and local funding  
17 provided to state agencies serving these youth populations and  
18 the availability of partnership grants for community-based  
19 programs.

20 (5) The financial impact of providing social and  
21 academic services through local schools and communities for  
22 these youth populations, including, but not limited to, costs  
23 associated with current detention referrals and the  
24 implementation or expansion of recommended programs.

1           (6) Recommended strategies for serving the academic,  
2           mental health, and social needs of youth returning from the  
3           Department of Youth Services or the Department of Corrections.

4           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the commission shall  
5           issue a written report of its findings, conclusions, and  
6           recommendations for proposed legislation concerning truant,  
7           at-risk, delinquent youth to the Legislature no later than the  
8           15th day of the 2016 Regular Session, whereupon it shall stand  
9           dissolved and discharged of any further duties.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each non-legislative  
11          member of the task force may be reimbursed for expenses  
12          related to attending meetings consistent with the policies of  
13          the various appointing authorities. Upon the request of the  
14          chair, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of  
15          Representatives shall provide necessary clerical assistance  
16          for the work of the commission. Each legislative member of the  
17          task force shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative  
18          compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or  
19          she attends a meeting of the commission in accordance with  
20          Amendment 871 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These  
21          payments shall be paid out of any funds appropriated to the  
22          use of the Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the state  
23          Comptroller on the State Treasury.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 14-MAY-15.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

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21-MAY-15

Adopted