

1       SJR43  
2       169917-3  
3       By Senator Ward  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 28-APR-15

1 SJR43

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4 ENROLLED, SJR43,

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) Two 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) Two members 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 Alabama Law  
12 Enforcement Agency appointed by the Secretary of Law  
13 Enforcement.

14          (8) One representative of the Governor's Office  
15 appointed by the Governor.

16          (9) One member appointed by the Association of  
17 County Commissions of Alabama.

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

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

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

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

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

1           The task force shall study issues related to health  
2 insurance eligibility, enrollment, and coverage, including  
3 examination of the costs and benefits of suspending Medicaid  
4 benefits in lieu of termination, for individuals involved in  
5 the criminal justice system.

6           The task force shall report its findings,  
7 conclusions, and recommendations for proposed legislation to  
8 the Legislature no later than the 15th day of the 2016 Regular  
9 Session, where upon it shall stand dissolved and discharged of  
10 any further duties.

11           Each nonlegislative member of the task force may be  
12 reimbursed for expenses related to attending meetings  
13 consistent with the policies of the various appointing  
14 authorities.

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

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President and Presiding Officer of  
the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representa-  
tives

SJR43  
Senate 28-APR-15  
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and adopted the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Amended and adopted 26-MAY-15

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Senate concurred in House amendment 26-MAY-15

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By: Senator Ward