

1 HJR36  
2 197119-1  
3 By Representatives Garrett, Sells, Ball, Estes, Moore (P),  
4 Kiel, Wood (D), Robertson, Crawford, Shaver, Gaston, Oliver,  
5 Reynolds, Shiver, Whitt, Wilcox, Ledbetter, Clarke, Wingo,  
6 Allen, Mooney, Holmes, Fincher, Dismukes, Gray, Chestnut,  
7 McMillan, Collins, Greer, Lovvorn, Blackshear, Clouse, Lee,  
8 Carns, Drake, Faulkner, Scott, Ingram, Fridy, Lawrence,  
9 Standridge, Kitchens, Sullivan, Wheeler, Hanes, Rich, Pettus  
10 and Sorrell  
11 RFD: Rules  
12 First Read: 20-MAR-19

1 197119-1:n:02/27/2019:KBH/cr LSA2019-328

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8 TO RECREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON  
9 BUDGET REFORM.

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11 WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Task Force on Budget  
12 Reform was first created by the Legislature during the 2016  
13 First Special Session (Act 2016-480), to examine the structure  
14 and design of the state budgeting process and make  
15 recommendations for long-term budget and tax system reforms;  
16 the task force was recreated by the Legislature during the  
17 2017 Regular Session (Act 2017-63), to continue its efforts to  
18 formulate meaningful budget reform; and

19 WHEREAS, the task force held numerous meetings to  
20 hear testimony and examine potential policy approaches  
21 relating to the expenditures of state government within the  
22 General Fund and the existing structure of the state budgeting  
23 process; and

24 WHEREAS, due to the diligent work of task force  
25 members, the task force made significant progress in  
26 formulating suggested policy changes to the budgeting process  
27 which would facilitate a more thorough review and oversight of

1 state agency spending and ensure that taxpayer dollars are  
2 appropriated in the best possible manner; and

3                   WHEREAS, an Initial Report of the Joint Legislative  
4 Task Force on Budget Reform was provided as required by Act  
5 2016-480, 2016 First Special Session; within that report, the  
6 task force requested to be continued and the date for the  
7 final report extended until the fifth Legislative Day of the  
8 2018 Regular Session; and

9                   WHEREAS, because the Legislature has begun a new  
10 quadrennium with new legislators, the legislators who served  
11 on the prior task force request that the task force be  
12 recreated for the 2019 Regular Session to continue the efforts  
13 of reforming current budgeting practices in order to provide  
14 the citizens of Alabama with the stable, transparent, and  
15 effective government that they expect and deserve; now  
16 therefore,

17                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That a Joint Legislative Task Force  
19 on Budget Reform is created to examine the structure and  
20 design of the state budgeting process and make recommendations  
21 for long-term budget and tax system reforms.

22                   (a) The task force shall be composed of the  
23 following:

24                   (1) Seven members of the House of Representatives,  
25 appointed by the Speaker of the House, two of whom must be  
26 members of the minority caucus in the House.

(2) Seven members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two of whom must be members of the minority caucus in the Senate.

(b) The task force shall evaluate and recommend changes to state budgeting practices, including, but not limited to:

(1) Adjustments to the budgeting process for the Education Trust Fund and General Fund.

(2) Requiring state entities to undergo greater performance and program reviews.

(3) Unearmarking funds in order to provide for greater legislative oversight and appropriating flexibility.

(4) Reviewing existing state tax credits, deductions, and exemptions to our state budgets each year, and creating a policy to ensure that future tax credits effectively provide economic gain to the state.

(c) (1) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the task force, which must be held not later than September 30, 2019. The task force shall elect a co-chair from the House of Representatives and a co-chair from the Senate at its first meeting. Upon the request of a co-chair, the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate shall provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the task force.

(2) The Legislative Services Agency shall provide necessary professional services to the task force.

(3) The task force shall meet monthly and shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature not later than the fifth legislative day of the 2020 Regular Session, whereupon the task force shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further duties and liabilities.

(d) Each member of the task force shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State Treasury.