

1 HJR151
2 199761-2
3 By Representatives Rafferty, McCampbell, Alexander, Hollis,
4 Lawrence, Chestnut, Warren, Drummond, Isbell, Clarke, Lee,
5 Sorrells, Daniels, Fincher, Marques, Allen, Dismukes, Forte,
6 Scott, Rowe, South, Weaver, Sullivan, Treadaway, Ellis, Fridy,
7 Oliver and Hall
8 RFD: Rules
9 First Read: 23-APR-19

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON VETERANS' SUICIDE.

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5 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature is concerned with
6 the health, safety, and welfare of all returning veterans of
7 this country's armed forces to Alabama; and

8 WHEREAS, the rate of mental health problems and
9 suicides for members of this country's armed forces remains
10 startlingly high; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2016, the veteran suicide rate in
12 Alabama was 60 percent higher than the rate for civilians and
13 9 percent higher than other southern states; and

14 WHEREAS, 16.6 percent of all suicide deaths in
15 Alabama are veterans; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Task
18 Force on Veterans' Suicide to investigate the causes of and
19 prevention of suicides among returning Alabama veterans of the
20 United States Military and to make recommendations to the
21 Legislature to address this important issue.

22 (a) The task force shall consist of nine members as
23 follows:

24 (1) One veteran appointed by the Commissioner of
25 Veterans' Affairs, and this member shall act as chair.

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

(3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(4) One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

(5) One member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

(6) One veteran appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health.

(7) One representative from the Department of Public Health, appointed by the State Health Officer.

(8) One representative of the Department of Human Resources, appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources.

(9) One veteran appointed by the Governor.

(b) All appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state. To the extent practicable, the appointing authorities shall endeavour to appoint a veteran.

(c) The members of the task force shall serve with no compensation other than per diem or travel reimbursement to be paid by the appointing authority according to the constitution, state law, or existing policies or rules.

(h) The Alabama Task Force on Veterans' Suicide shall present a report of its findings, which shall include its recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Legislature on or before two years from the enactment of this resolution.

(i) The task force shall be dissolved after the submission of its report to the Legislature.

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
9 and was adopted by the House 30-APR-19.

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Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

02-MAY-19

Adopted