

1 HJR176  
2 208905-2  
3 By Representative Kitchens  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 06-APR-21

CREATING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON  
EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN EARLY EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, studies have shown that children who  
complete high quality early education programs are more likely  
to demonstrate higher readiness for kindergarten as compared  
to their peers who do not; less likely to be chronically  
absent; to be held back a grade; to need special education  
services in K-12; or to receive disciplinary referrals; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Joint Legislative Study  
Commission was launched to explore and raise awareness about  
the various early childhood and long-term benefits of  
accessible, high quality early education; and

WHEREAS, Alabama has been recognized as having one  
of the highest quality Pre-K programs in the country for 14  
consecutive years, as recognized by the National Institute for  
Early Education Research (NIEER); and

WHEREAS, this body finds a compelling interest in  
seeking to expand access to the benefits of high quality Pre-K

1 programs for Alabama's three-year-old and four-year-old  
2 children; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Joint  
5 Legislative Study Commission on Expanding Access to High  
6 Quality Pre-K Education.

7 (1) The membership of the commission shall include  
8 the following:

9 a. Five members of the Senate appointed by the  
10 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

11 b. Five members of the House of Representatives  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13 (2) The appointing authorities shall coordinate  
14 their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and  
15 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

16 (3) The commission shall have all of the following  
17 duties:

18 a. To evaluate practices that would advance funding  
19 for for Pre-K programs in the state and expand access to the  
20 programs within our mixed delivery system.

21 b. To identify barriers to offering quality  
22 improvement systems for childcare centers statewide that  
23 ensure the implementation of the structural quality standards  
24 of NIEER.

25 c. To assess existing obstacles to achieving full  
26 access to first class Pre-K classrooms for all potential Pre-K  
27 students statewide.

1           d. To submit recommendations for legislative action  
2 to remedy or address identified issues to the Speaker of the  
3 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
4 Senate on the first legislative day of the 2022 Regular  
5 Session at which time the commission shall be dissolved.

6           (4) Appointments to the commission shall be made  
7 within 30 days after the adoption of this resolution.

8           (5) a. The commission shall hold its first meeting  
9 no later than July 1, 2021, with the date, time, and location  
10 of the meeting designated by the President Pro Tempore of the  
11 Senate.

12           b. At the first meeting, the commission shall elect  
13 a chair, vice chair, and other officers as determined by the  
14 commission, and shall set dates, times, and locations of  
15 subsequent meetings.

16           c. The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the  
17 Legislative Services Agency shall provide the necessary staff  
18 and support to the commission to perform its duties as  
19 necessary.

20           d. The legislative members of the commission shall  
21 be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and  
22 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the  
23 commission in accordance with Amendment 871 of the  
24 Constitution of Alabama of 1901.