

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

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

11
12 WHEREAS, studies have shown that children who
13 complete high quality early education programs are more likely
14 to demonstrate higher readiness for kindergarten as compared
15 to their peers who do not; less likely to be chronically
16 absent; to be held back a grade; to need special education
17 services in K-12; or to receive disciplinary referrals; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, this body finds a compelling interest in
27 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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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