

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, this body finds a compelling interest in  
22 seeking to expand access to the benefits of high quality Pre-K  
23 programs for Alabama's three-year-old and four-year-old  
24 children; now therefore,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. To assess existing obstacles to achieving full access to first class Pre-K classrooms for all potential Pre-K 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.

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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 13-APR-21.

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Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

29-APR-21

Adopted