

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

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 CREATING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON
4 EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN EARLY EDUCATION
5 PROGRAMS.
6

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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 c. To assess existing obstacles to achieving full
24 access to first class Pre-K classrooms for all potential Pre-K
25 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.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 13-APR-21.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

29-APR-21

Adopted