

1 HJR272
2 214104-1
3 By Representative Wadsworth
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 06-MAY-21

CREATING THE JOINT INTERIM COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SECOND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
AND/OR INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL SERVICES IN THE
RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, the only school of dentistry in the state
is located in Birmingham, under the management and control of
the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama System; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is currently ranked 51st of all
states and the District of Columbia in the availability of
dental services; and

WHEREAS, although there were 2,240 dentists
practicing in the state as of January 2020, many of those
dentists have chosen to live and practice in major population
centers, leaving much of rural Alabama underserved; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of the dentists currently
practicing in the state are over the age of 60; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created a joint
interim commission to study the feasibility of establishing a

1 second school of dentistry and/or increasing the availability
2 of dental services in rural areas of the state.

3 (a) The study commission shall be comprised of the
4 following members:

5 (1) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation
6 Education Committee.

7 (2) The Chair of the House Ways and Means Education
8 Committee.

9 (3) Up to three members of the Senate, appointed by
10 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

11 (4) Up to three members of the House of
12 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives.

14 (5) Up to three members appointed by the Governor.

15 (6) One member appointed by the Board of Dental
16 Examiners of Alabama.

17 (7) One member appointed by the Executive Committee
18 of the Alabama Dental Association.

19 (8) One member appointed by the State Board of
20 Health.

21 (9) One member appointed by the Board of Trustees of
22 The University of Alabama System.

23 (10) One member appointed by the Board of Directors
24 of the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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

1 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and
2 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, from the membership
3 of the commission, shall each appoint a cochair. The initial
4 meeting of the commission shall be held as soon as practical
5 at a time and place set by the cochairs. Notice of the
6 meetings of the commission shall be provided in a manner
7 consistent with the rules of the Legislature pertaining to
8 interim committees.

9 (d) To determine the feasibility of establishing a
10 second school of dentistry in the state and/or increasing the
11 availability of dental services in rural areas of the state,
12 the commission shall analyze all of the following:

13 (1) The number and location of dentists currently
14 practicing in the state and the dentist shortage index
15 calculated pursuant to Section 16-47-81, Code of Alabama 1975,
16 to determine which, if any, areas of the state are underserved
17 in dental health care.

18 (2) Whether establishing an additional school of
19 dentistry would benefit the rural areas of Alabama.

20 (3) An analysis of all alternatives available for
21 providing more dentists and dental services to better serve
22 the rural areas of the State of Alabama.

23 (e) The Senate, House of Representatives, and
24 Legislative Services Agency shall provide the necessary staff
25 and support to the commission to perform its duties.

26 (f) (1) The legislative members of the commission
27 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem,

1 and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
2 commission in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
3 Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

4 (2) Other members of the commission may be
5 reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the
6 commission according to policies and procedures of their
7 respective appointing authorities.

8 (g) The commission shall report its findings to the
9 Legislature, along with proposed legislation, not later than
10 January 1, 2022, at which time the commission shall stand
11 dissolved.