

1 SJR34
2 217123-1
3 By Senator Singleton
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-FEB-22

8 CREATING THE JOINT INTERIM STUDY COMMISSION ON
9 RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES BY PUBLIC EDUCATION.

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11 WHEREAS, technology is rapidly changing at an
12 astonishing pace; in the past few years, staying current in
13 the constantly changing and innovative world of technology is
14 necessary and can be very expensive; and

15 WHEREAS, for our future workforce to remain
16 competitive, our public K-12 and two-year and four-year
17 institutions of higher education must keep pace academically
18 with rapid technological change, often with limited budgets;
19 now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Joint
22 Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases
23 by Public Education to examine the short-term and long-term
24 fiscal impact of the significant increase in mass technology
25 purchases, and to recommend new methods of addressing any
26 potential economic, privacy, and environmental impacts of
27 those purchases.

(a) The membership of the commission shall consist of all of the following:

(1) The State Superintendent of Education, or his or her designee.

(2) The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, or his or her designee.

(3) The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, or his or her designee.

(4) The Chair of the Senate Education Policy Committee, or his or her designee.

(5) The Chair of the House Education Policy Committee, or his or her designee.

(6) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee, or his or her designee.

(7) The Chair of the House Ways and Means Education Committee, or his or her designee.

(8) The Senate Minority Leader, or his or her designee.

(9) The House of Representatives Minority Leader, or his or her designee.

(10) The State Finance Director, or his or her designee.

(11) An educational, hardware technology specialist appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

(b) Designations shall be coordinated so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

(c) The Chairs of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee and the House Ways and Means Education Committee shall serve as cochairs of the commission. The commission shall meet as soon as practical at a time and place set by the chairs. Notice of the meetings of the commission shall be provided in a manner consistent with the rules of the Legislature pertaining to interim committees.

(d) In addition to reviewing the existing methods and processes for mass technology purchases, the commission shall consider the viability of establishing and implementing a model total cost of ownership (TCO) matrix or calculator for public K-12 and higher education to utilize when making large purchases of technology. In designing a simple and straightforward model template for a TCO matrix or calculator, the commission should take into consideration all of the following factors:

(1) Residual or resale value of devices versus initial costs.

(2) Leasing and fair market value financing options.

(3) End-of-life device buyback options.

(4) Sustainability plans for future refreshes.

(5) Environmental impact of end-of-use disposal

methods.

(6) Data privacy assurances at end-of-life.

(e) The Senate and the Legislative Services Agency shall provide the necessary staff and support to the commission to perform its duties.

(f) (1) 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.

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

(g) The commission shall report its findings to the Legislature, along with proposed legislation, and publish its final report on the website of the Legislature, not later than January 1, 2023, at which time the commission shall stand dissolved.