

1 SJR107
2 219638-1
3 By Senator Marsh
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-22

8 CREATING THE JOINT INTERIM STUDY COMMISSION ON
9 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING.

10
11 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature passed the Alabama
12 School Choice and Student Opportunity Act, Chapter 6F, Title
13 16, Code of Alabama 1975, with the intention of supporting and
14 facilitating innovation in Alabama public education through
15 the creation of public charter schools; and

16 WHEREAS, public charter schools are public schools
17 and should therefore receive public revenue to support their
18 work; and

19 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program and many revenue
20 streams intended to support public education were created
21 prior to the existence of public charter schools in the state;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, there are currently eight public charter
24 schools operating in the state, with two more scheduled to
25 open in the Fall of 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, existing public school funding sources do
2 not fully contemplate the presence of public charter schools;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, public schools in Alabama deserve to make
5 budgeting and financial decisions based on reliable expected
6 revenue estimates; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is established the Joint
9 Interim Study Commission on Public Charter School Funding.

10 (a) The study commission shall be composed of the
11 following members:

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

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

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

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

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

22 (6) A member appointed by the Executive Director of
23 the School Superintendents of Alabama.

24 (7) A member appointed by the Board of Directors of
25 New Schools for Alabama.

26 (8) A member appointed by the Board of Directors of
27 the Alabama Education Association.

(9) A public charter school leader, appointed by agreement of the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Policy Committees.

(10) A member appointed by the President of the Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools.

(11) A member appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Association of School Boards.

(12) A member appointed by the Executive Director of the Alabama Families for Great Schools.

(13) A member appointed by the Board of Directors of the A Plus Education Partnership.

(14) The Majority Leader of the Senate, or his or her designee.

(15) The Minority Leader of the Senate, or his or her designee.

(16) The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, or his or her designee.

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

(18) A member appointed by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.

(19) A current or former chief school finance officer, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Association of School Business Officials.

(20) The Mobile County Revenue Commissioner, or his or her designee.

(21) The Jefferson County Revenue Commissioner, or his or her designee.

(22) The Montgomery County Revenue Commissioner, or his or her designee.

(b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure that the study commission is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(c) Upon passage, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to each of the appointing authorities.

(d) The initial organizational meeting of the study commission shall be held not later than 60 days after the passage of this resolution. The membership of the study commission shall elect a chair from among the membership at the initial organizational meeting. Thereafter, the study commission may hold meetings at the call of the chair or a majority of the members.

(e) The Legislative Services Agency and the State Department of Education shall provide administrative and other assistance for the work of the study commission, as necessary.

(f) (1) Legislative members of the study commission shall be entitled to their regular legislative compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the study commission in accordance with Amendment 871 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 49.01 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended. These payments

1 shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the use of the
2 Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the Comptroller on
3 the State Treasury.

4 (2) Non-legislative members of the study commission
5 shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed by
6 their respective appointing authority for expenses related to
7 attending meetings.

8 (g) The study commission shall have all of the
9 following duties:

10 (1) To study public charter school funding in
11 Alabama.

12 (2) To determine new methods of funding public
13 charter schools in the state, including additional or
14 alternative state or local revenue sources.

15 (h) The study commission shall prepare and submit a
16 report of its findings, conclusions, and any recommendations
17 for legislative action related to public charter school
18 funding to the Legislature no later than the third legislative
19 day of the 2023 Regular Session. Upon submission, the study
20 commission shall be dissolved and discharged of any further
21 duties and liabilities.