

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there are currently eight public charter schools operating in the state, with two more scheduled to 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (f) (1) Legislative members of the study commission
22 shall be entitled to their regular legislative compensation,
23 per diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a
24 meeting of the study commission in accordance with Amendment
25 871 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as
26 Section 49.01 of the Official ReCompilation of the
27 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.