

SJR61 INTRODUCED



1 3X67EZ-1
2 By Senator Sessions
3 RFD: RULES
4 First Read: 02-May-23
5
6 2023 Regular Session



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4 SJR___ ESTABLISHING THE JOINT STUDY COMMISSION ON FERAL
5 SWINE IN ALABAMA.
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7 WHEREAS, 40 years ago feral swine were largely
8 restricted to the southern third of Alabama but may now be
9 encountered statewide; and

10 WHEREAS, feral swine wantonly destroy the state's
11 crops, especially peanuts, corn, and timber seedlings; and

12 WHEREAS, the unhindered movement of feral swine
13 upsets soil nutrients, contaminates water supplies, and
14 results in the vandalization of farm structures and
15 equipment; and

16 WHEREAS, feral swine are a known transmitter of
17 pseudorabies to livestock and can infect humans with
18 brucellosis; and

19 WHEREAS, feral swine are responsible each year for an
20 estimated 50 million dollars in costs to this state's
21 agricultural sector, whether in crop damage, repairs, or in
22 protective measures; and

23 WHEREAS, feral swine prey upon Alabama's native
24 wildlife population, including amphibians, birds, wild
25 turkey, and white-tailed deer; and



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WHEREAS, having a short gestation period that fuels exponential population growth, feral swine cannot be significantly reduced in population through unrestricted hunting; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Joint Study Commission on Feral Swine is established.

(a) The purpose of the commission is to investigate the effect of feral swine on the economy and the natural resources of the State of Alabama with the goal of formulating solutions that will provide lasting protection to the state's natural resources, crops and livestock, and personal property.

(b)(1) The members of the commission shall include all of the following:

a. The Chair, Vice Chair, and ranking minority member of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee.

b. The Chair, Vice Chair, and ranking minority member of the House of Representatives Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

c. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or his or her designee.

d. The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, or his or her designee.



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51 (2) Members of the commission may invite a
52 representative of the Alabama state office of the Natural
53 Resources Conservation Service of the United States
54 Department of Agriculture, appointed by the Natural
55 Resources Conservation Service to participate in commission
56 meetings.

57 (c) The initial meeting of the commission shall be
58 called by the Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation,
59 and Forestry Committee and shall be held no later than 60
60 days following the effective date of this resolution, at
61 which time the commission shall elect a chair and assign
62 responsibilities to each member. Thereafter, the commission
63 shall meet no less than once each quarter.

64 (d) (1) The legislative members of the commission
65 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per
66 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting
67 of the commission in accordance with Section 49 of the
68 Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

69 (2) The non-legislative members of the commission
70 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
71 necessary expenses in attending commission meetings pursuant
72 to the policies of the respective appointing authority.

73 (e) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
74 1975, the commission shall provide to the Secretary of State
75 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on



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76 the commission, a copy of its final report, and other
77 interim reports or studies produced throughout the duration
78 of its existence.

79 (f)(1) The commission shall prepare a final report of
80 its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for any
81 proposed legislation no later than the fifth legislative day
82 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

83 (2) The final report shall be delivered to the
84 Lieutenant Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
85 Senate, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority
86 Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
87 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the House of
88 Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of
89 Representatives.

90 (3) Upon delivery of its final report, the commission
91 shall be dissolved.