SB162

8R95H2F-1

By Senator Barfoot

RFD: County and Municipal Government

First Read: 27-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

In the 2021 Regular Session, the Study Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals was created.

Under existing law, the study commission is dissolved on the fifth legislative day of the 2023 Regular Session.

This bill would extend the dissolution date until the fifth legislative day of the 2025 Regular Session.

This bill would add additional members to the commission.

This bill would provide for retroactive effect.

This bill would also provide for the payment of expenses.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the Study Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals; to amend

Section 3 of Act 2021-478, 2021 Regular Session, as amended by Act 2022-409 of the 2022 Regular Session, to extend the dissolution date of the study commission, to add additional members to the commission; to provide for retroactive effect, and to provide for expenses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 3 of Act 2021-478 of the 2021 Regular Session, as amended by Act 2022-409 of the 2022 Regular Session, is amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. (a) There is established a Study Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, which shall consist of all of the following:

(1) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore.

(3) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or her designee.

(4) The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his or her designee.

(5) The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, or his or her designee.

(6) The Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, or his or her designee.

(7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency, or his or her designee.

(8) The Director of the Alabama Community College

System, or his or her designee.

(9) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or his or her designee.

(10) The Secretary of the Department of Labor, or his or her designee.

(11) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, or his or her designee.

(12) The Executive Director of the Office of Prosecution Services, or his or her designee.

(13) A district attorney appointed by the Alabama District Attorneys Association.

(14) Two at-large members appointed by the chair.

(b) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or her designee, shall serve as the chair of the commission. A vice chair shall be designated by a majority vote of the quorum of the membership at its first meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the membership.

(c) The membership of the commission shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic ~~areas~~, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(d) The commission shall have all of the following duties:

(1) Develop and present a strategic plan to make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization and assist individuals who return from prison to become productive citizens and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

(2) Identify, implement, and promote evidence-based

research, policies, strategies, and programming to support successful reentry and reintegration.

(3) Promote partnerships and collaboration among state agencies and with local governments and organizations to effectively and cost-efficiently advance reentry and reintegration efforts and eliminate duplication of services.

(4) Develop strategies to expand access to educational programs and support programs upon reentry.

(5) Develop strategies to assure access to health care coverage and behavioral health services upon reentry.

(6) Identify and address unwarranted barriers to successful reentry.

(7) Pursue partnerships with employers, agencies, and business leaders to create a pipeline for job placement that strengthens the state's workforce participation rate.

(e)(1) The commission shall hold its first meeting no later than June 1, 2021, with the date, time, and location of the meeting to be designated by the Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or her designee.

(2) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a vice chair, elect other officers as determined by the commission, and set dates, times, and locations of subsequent meetings.

(3) The commission shall meet at least monthly and shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature no later than the ~~fifth~~ tenth legislative day of the ~~2023~~ 2025 Regular Session, whereupon the commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further duties and

liabilities.

(f) The House of Representatives and the Senate shall provide the necessary staff and support to the commission to perform its duties.

(g) Expenses incurred by the commission before or after the effective date of the act adding this subsection shall be paid from funds appropriated to the Legislature, not to exceed a total of five thousand dollars ($5,000).

(h) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the commission according to policies and procedures of their respective appointing authority or employing agency.

(i) 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~~ Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama of ~~1901~~2022."

Section 2. This act is curative and retroactive to the fifth legislative day of the ~~2022~~ 2024 Regular Session.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately.