

HJR34 INTRODUCED



1 HJR34
2 I3J5RZW-1
3 By Representative Simpson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



HJR___ ESTABLISHING THE CRIME CLEARANCE DATA TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, a 2024 Council on Criminal Justice Crime Trends Working Group report identified significant gaps in the nation's crime data which make it difficult for policymakers and practitioners to develop and implement tailored and timely interventions that are used to make communities safer; and

WHEREAS, crime clearance rates are an important piece of crime data that predict, albeit imperfectly, the likelihood that a perpetrator will be caught and a victim will have a chance to obtain justice; and

WHEREAS, crimes are most commonly cleared through an arrest; clearance rates may be calculated in a jurisdiction by dividing the total number of crimes cleared each year by the total number of crimes committed that year; and

WHEREAS, clearance rates have declined dramatically over the last half century, with murder cases only solved approximately half the time now, as opposed to an approximately 90 percent clearance rate in the 1950s; property crimes are solved less than 15 percent of the time; and

WHEREAS, low clearance rates send a message to criminals that they have a good chance of escaping justice; low clearance rates do not deter crime; and



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29 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 local law enforcement
30 agencies, mostly representing less populous jurisdictions,
31 did not report crime data in 2022 for inclusion in the state
32 Uniform Crime Reporting program that informs the Federal
33 Bureau of Investigation's annual crime reports; the lack of
34 reporting and resulting gaps in data may be attributed to
35 lack of resources in many law enforcement agencies, as 21
36 percent of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United
37 States have four or fewer officers, and another 24 percent
38 have only five to nine officers; and

39 WHEREAS, improving clearance rates should be a
40 statewide priority; current data should be studied to
41 determine current clearance rate trends in Alabama and set
42 the framework for timely and accurate reporting to identify
43 continued gaps and possible improvements; now therefore,

44 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
45 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is established the
46 Crime Clearance Data Task Force to study crime clearance
47 rates, their impact on deterrence, and data reporting gaps.

48 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of
49 all of the following:

50 (1) One member of law enforcement, appointed by the
51 Governor.

52 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the
53 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one member of the
54 Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

55 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
56 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,



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57 and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by
58 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

59 (4) The Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or
60 his or her designee.

61 (5) The Chair of the House of Representatives
62 Judiciary Committee, or his or her designee.

63 (6) The Director of the Alabama State Law Enforcement
64 Agency, or his or her designee.

65 (7) One sheriff appointed by the Alabama Sheriff's
66 Association.

67 (8) One police chief appointed by the Alabama
68 Association of Chiefs of Police.

69 (9) One district attorney appointed by the Alabama
70 District Attorneys Association.

71 (10) One circuit judge appointed by the Alabama
72 Circuit Judges' Association.

73 (11) One county commissioner appointed by the
74 Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

75 (12) One mayor appointed by the Alabama League of
76 Municipalities.

77 (b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
78 appointments to assure the task force membership is
79 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic,
80 urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

81 (c) The task force shall have the following duties:

82 (1) Study crime clearance rates and their impact on
83 deterrence.



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84 (2) Review current policies, practices, and available
85 data on crime clearance rates, including, but not limited
86 to, any reporting requirements and resulting data gaps.

87 (3) Provide recommendations to the Legislature for
88 legislation and other policy changes to address clearance
89 data reporting gaps, improve case clearances, and deter
90 crime. In developing recommendations, the task force shall
91 confer with the relevant experts and draw upon rigorous
92 evidence.

93 (d) The first meeting of the task force shall be no
94 later than May 1, 2026, at which time the members shall
95 elect a chair and vice chair from among the membership. The
96 task force may then meet as necessary to conduct business.

97 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the
98 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate
99 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the
100 work of the task force as necessary.

101 (f) (1) The legislative members of the task force
102 shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per
103 diem, and travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting
104 of the task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution
105 of Alabama 2022.

106 (2) The nonlegislative members of the task force
107 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
108 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force
109 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing
110 authority.



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111 (g) The task force shall prepare a report of its
112 findings, conclusions, and any recommendations for any
113 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than
114 November 1, 2026. Upon filing its report with the
115 Legislature, the task force shall stand dissolved and
116 discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

117 (h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
118 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State
119 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
120 the task force, and a copy of the final report and other
121 documents produced throughout the duration of the task
122 force.

123 (i) Each appointing authority named herein shall be
124 provided a copy of this resolution upon its passage.