

HJR17 ENROLLED



1 HJR17
2 2JU5LSS-2
3 By Representatives Blackshear, Reynolds, Garrett, Gray
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



HJR17 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2
3 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL STUDY
4 COMMISSION.
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6 WHEREAS, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS),
7 through the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC),
8 currently supports more than 180 athletic teams across 22
9 institutions, offering opportunities to more than 2,200
10 student-athletes in sports such as baseball, basketball,
11 cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and
12 field, volleyball, esports, and most recently, women's flag
13 football; and

14 WHEREAS, Alabama has a rich tradition and cultural
15 affinity for football, with the sport serving as a major
16 driver of community engagement, school spirit, and economic
17 activity across the state; and

18 WHEREAS, community college football programs once
19 existed in Alabama but were discontinued due to financial,
20 logistical, and administrative challenges, leaving a gap in
21 athletic opportunities for students who may not have access
22 to four-year institutions; and

23 WHEREAS, the recent success and expansion of women's
24 flag football in the ACCC, supported by legislative
25 appropriations, demonstrates the viability of introducing
26 new sports programs at the community college level; and

27 WHEREAS, reinstating football programs at community
28 colleges could provide additional pathways for



HJR17 Enrolled

29 student-athletes to pursue higher education, develop
30 leadership and teamwork skills, and potentially advance to
31 four-year institutions or professional opportunities; and

32 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is needed to evaluate
33 the feasibility, costs, benefits, and potential models for
34 reintroducing football programs in Alabama's community
35 colleges; now therefore,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
37 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is established the
38 Alabama Community College Football Study Commission to study
39 the feasibility of reinstating football programs at
40 community colleges within the Alabama Community College
41 System.

42 (a) The membership of the study commission shall
43 consist of all of the following:

44 (1) One member of the Alabama House of
45 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives.

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

49 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ways
50 and Means Education Committee, or his or her designee.

51 (4) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation
52 Education Committee, or her or her designee.

53 (5) The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College
54 System, or his or her designee.

55 (6) The Commissioner of the Alabama Community College
56 Conference.



HJR17 Enrolled

57 (7) Two presidents of community colleges with
58 athletic programs, appointed by the Chancellor of the
59 Alabama Community College System.

60 (8) Two community college athletic directors,
61 appointed by the Commissioner of the Alabama Community
62 College Conference.

63 (9) Two high school football coaches or athletic
64 directors from high schools with a classification of 1A
65 through 5A, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
66 Representatives.

67 (10) Two high school football coaches or athletic
68 directors from high schools with a classification of 6A or
69 7A, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

70 (11) Two representatives from universities that
71 participate in the National Collegiate Athletic
72 Association's Football Bowl Subdivision appointed by the
73 Lieutenant Governor.

74 (12) Two representatives from universities that
75 participate in the Southwestern Athletic Conference,
76 appointed by a joint recommendation of the Minority Leader
77 of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of
78 the Senate.

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

83 (c) The study commission shall have the following
84 duties:



HJR17 Enrolled

(1) Assess the current infrastructure, staffing, and financial capacity of the Alabama Community College Conference and the institutions of Alabama Community College System to implement football programs.

(2) Evaluate potential one-time and recurring funding sources for facilities and operational costs, including public-private partnerships and legislative appropriations.

(3) Consider models from other states with successful community college football programs.

(4) Solicit input from stakeholders including students, faculty, alumni, and local communities.

(5) Provide recommendations on timelines and legislative actions needed to implement football in the community college system.

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

(e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Alabama Community College System shall provide administrative and other assistance for the work of the study commission as necessary.

(f) (1) The legislative members of the study commission shall be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day



HJR17 Enrolled

they attend a meeting of the study commission pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of Alabama 2022.

(2) The nonlegislative members of the study commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending meetings of the study commission pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing authority.

(g) The study commission shall submit a final report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System no later than November 1, 2026. Upon filing its report with the Legislature, the study commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any future duties and liabilities.

(h) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama 1975, the study commission shall provide to the Secretary of State a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on the study commission, and a copy of the final report and other documents produced throughout the duration of the study commission.

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



HJR17 Enrolled

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 22-Jan-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

10-Feb-26

Adopted