

1 HJR36
2 197119-1
3 By Representatives Garrett, Sells, Ball, Estes, Moore (P),
4 Kiel, Wood (D), Robertson, Crawford, Shaver, Gaston, Oliver,
5 Reynolds, Shiver, Whitt, Wilcox, Ledbetter, Clarke, Wingo,
6 Allen, Mooney, Holmes, Fincher, Dismukes, Gray, Chestnut,
7 McMillan, Collins, Greer, Lovvorn, Blackshear, Clouse, Lee,
8 Carns, Drake, Faulkner, Scott, Ingram, Fridy, Lawrence,
9 Standridge, Kitchens, Sullivan, Wheeler, Hanes, Rich, Pettus
10 and Sorrell
11 RFD: Rules
12 First Read: 20-MAR-19

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8 TO RECREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
9 BUDGET REFORM.

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11 WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Task Force on Budget
12 Reform was first created by the Legislature during the 2016
13 First Special Session (Act 2016-480), to examine the structure
14 and design of the state budgeting process and make
15 recommendations for long-term budget and tax system reforms;
16 the task force was recreated by the Legislature during the
17 2017 Regular Session (Act 2017-63), to continue its efforts to
18 formulate meaningful budget reform; and

19 WHEREAS, the task force held numerous meetings to
20 hear testimony and examine potential policy approaches
21 relating to the expenditures of state government within the
22 General Fund and the existing structure of the state budgeting
23 process; and

24 WHEREAS, due to the diligent work of task force
25 members, the task force made significant progress in
26 formulating suggested policy changes to the budgeting process
27 which would facilitate a more thorough review and oversight of

1 state agency spending and ensure that taxpayer dollars are
2 appropriated in the best possible manner; and

3 WHEREAS, an Initial Report of the Joint Legislative
4 Task Force on Budget Reform was provided as required by Act
5 2016-480, 2016 First Special Session; within that report, the
6 task force requested to be continued and the date for the
7 final report extended until the fifth Legislative Day of the
8 2018 Regular Session; and

9 WHEREAS, because the Legislature has begun a new
10 quadrennium with new legislators, the legislators who served
11 on the prior task force request that the task force be
12 recreated for the 2019 Regular Session to continue the efforts
13 of reforming current budgeting practices in order to provide
14 the citizens of Alabama with the stable, transparent, and
15 effective government that they expect and deserve; now
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That a Joint Legislative Task Force
19 on Budget Reform is created to examine the structure and
20 design of the state budgeting process and make recommendations
21 for long-term budget and tax system reforms.

22 (a) The task force shall be composed of the
23 following:

24 (1) Seven members of the House of Representatives,
25 appointed by the Speaker of the House, two of whom must be
26 members of the minority caucus in the House.

1 (2) Seven members of the Senate, appointed by the
2 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two of whom must be
3 members of the minority caucus in the Senate.

4 (b) The task force shall evaluate and recommend
5 changes to state budgeting practices, including, but not
6 limited to:

7 (1) Adjustments to the budgeting process for the
8 Education Trust Fund and General Fund.

9 (2) Requiring state entities to undergo greater
10 performance and program reviews.

11 (3) Unearmarking funds in order to provide for
12 greater legislative oversight and appropriating flexibility.

13 (4) Reviewing existing state tax credits,
14 deductions, and exemptions to our state budgets each year, and
15 creating a policy to ensure that future tax credits
16 effectively provide economic gain to the state.

17 (c) (1) The Speaker of the House and the President
18 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the
19 task force, which must be held not later than September 30,
20 2019. The task force shall elect a co-chair from the House of
21 Representatives and a co-chair from the Senate at its first
22 meeting. Upon the request of a co-chair, the Clerk of the
23 House and the Secretary of the Senate shall provide necessary
24 clerical assistance for the work of the task force.

25 (2) The Legislative Services Agency shall provide
26 necessary professional services to the task force.

1 (3) The task force shall meet monthly and shall
2 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
3 Legislature not later than the fifth legislative day of the
4 2020 Regular Session, whereupon the task force shall stand
5 dissolved and discharged of any further duties and
6 liabilities.

7 (d) Each member of the task force shall be entitled
8 to his or her regular legislative compensation, per diem, and
9 travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of
10 the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
11 Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid
12 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by
13 means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State
14 Treasury.