

SJR61 INTRODUCED



1 SJR61

2 KCR4UAA-1

3 By Senators Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,

4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,

5 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,

6 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Price,

7 Reed, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnett, Singleton, Smitherman,

8 Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 23-Apr-24



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SJR___ REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON MODERNIZING K-12 EDUCATION SCHOOL FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the Foundation Program for funding K-12 education in Alabama is a resource-based system that was adopted in 1995 and began operation in the 1995-1996 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation Program is funded from state and local tax dollars with the local share coming from local property taxes of 10-mills that each system must levy to participate in the program while the state costs come from the Education Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation Program provides funding to school districts based on the anticipated costs of resources and inputs, such as salaries, basic financial support for classrooms, and operations money, but provides minimal additional state funding for students with disabilities or to address other individual needs of students; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation Program is complex, containing few techniques for lawmakers to employ to address the changing needs of students and school districts and no clear way to link state funding priorities to local spending decisions and the outcomes of various student groups; and

WHEREAS, local school systems face a myriad of challenges in meeting the unique educational needs of the



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29 students they serve; there is a need for greater flexibility
30 to provide the educational services required of teachers,
31 administration, and school systems in general; and

32 WHEREAS, Alabama is one of only six states that only
33 uses a resource-based funding formula for K-12 education,
34 while 41 states use a student-based funding formula where
35 school districts receive funding based on the number of
36 students enrolled or in attendance with additional funding
37 being provided based on characteristics of the students of
38 the district, such as low-income, poverty, disability, and
39 status as an English language learner, or a gifted student;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, many outside studies have concluded that
42 states should shift K-12 education school funding away from
43 a resource-based system and into a modern, weighted,
44 student-based funding model that would reflect the true cost
45 of educating various student groups and moving all students
46 toward proficiency; now therefore,

47 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
48 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature of Alabama
49 shall conduct a study on modernizing the current K-12 school
50 funding model into a student-based funding model, including
51 any additional costs associated with the transition, as well
52 as any necessary changes in law that may be required to
53 implement a new statutory framework that supports meaningful
54 education to Alabama's K-12 students.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature shall
56 deliver the findings of its study and any proposed



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57 legislation to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
58 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
59 by February 1, 2025.

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