

1 HJR23
2 88823-4
3 By Representatives Ward, Canfield, Todd, Hill, McClurkin,
4 Love, Curtis, Beck, Shiver, Galliher, Ball, McDaniel, Drake,
5 Davis, Collier, Dunn, Moore (M), Salaam, Grimes, Faust,
6 Jackson, Allen and Moore (P)
7 RFD: Rules
8 First Read: 06-MAR-07

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2 ENGROSSED

3
4 CREATING THE ALABAMA AUTISM TASK FORCE.

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6 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorders, also known as
7 pervasive developmental disorders, cause severe and pervasive
8 impairment in thinking, feeling, language, and the ability to
9 relate to others, a disorder that is a direct threat to the
10 well-being of Alabama's children; and

11 WHEREAS, one in every 150 children in the United
12 States is diagnosed with autism every year and this number
13 continues to increase as the medical community and state
14 governments learn more about this disorder; and

15 WHEREAS, the mean age of diagnosis of autism in
16 Alabama's children is currently 66 months, which is
17 significantly later than in any of the other states; now
18 therefor,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is hereby created the
21 Alabama Autism Task Force.

22 The task force shall be composed of the following
23 appointed members:

24 (1) The State Health Officer shall appoint one
25 member.

26 (2) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental
27 Retardation shall appoint one member.

1 (3) The Governor shall appoint one member.

2 (4) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint three
3 members, one of whom shall serve as co-chair of the task
4 force. One of the appointees of the Lieutenant Governor must
5 be an African-American member of the Senate.

6 (5) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
7 appoint one member.

8 (6) The Speaker of the House shall appoint four
9 members, one of whom shall serve as co-chair of the task
10 force. One of the appointees of the Speaker must be an
11 African-American member of the House.

12 (7) The Secretary of State shall appoint one member.

13 (8) The Alabama Autism Society shall appoint three
14 members.

15 (9) The State Superintendent of Education shall
16 appoint one member.

17 (10) The Medical Association of Alabama shall
18 appoint one member.

19 (11) The Hospital Association of Alabama shall
20 appoint one member.

21 (12) The Executive Secretary of the Alabama
22 Education Association shall appoint one member.

23 (13) The Medicaid Commissioner shall appoint one
24 member.

25 (14) The Insurance Commissioner shall appoint one
26 member.

1 (15) The President of the University of Alabama
2 Birmingham shall appoint one member.

3 (16) The President of Auburn University shall
4 appoint one member.

5 (17) The President of Alabama A & M University shall
6 appoint one member.

7 (18) The President of Alabama State University shall
8 appoint one member.

9 The task force membership shall be inclusive and
10 shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural,
11 and economic diversity of the state.

12 The task force shall study in depth the challenges
13 for diagnosing and treating autism in our state and shall
14 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for
15 proposed reform legislation to the Legislature not later than
16 the third legislative day of the 2008 Regular Session,
17 whereupon the task force shall stand dissolved and discharged
18 of any further duties and liabilities.

19 Each non-legislative member of the task force may be
20 reimbursed for expenses related to attending meetings
21 consistent with the policies of the various appointing
22 authorities.

23 Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of the
24 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
25 provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the task
26 force. Each legislative member of the task force shall be
27 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his

1 or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she
2 attends a meeting of the task force. These payments shall be
3 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the
4 Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the state
5 Comptroller on the State Treasury. Notwithstanding the
6 foregoing, no member shall receive additional legislative
7 compensation or per diem when the Legislature is in session or
8 if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates
9 for attendance on other state business. The total expenditures
10 of the committee shall not exceed five thousand dollars
11 (\$5,000).

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House of Representatives

Introduced and referred to the
House of Representatives committee
on Rules 06-MAR-07

Reported from Rules with 1 substi-
tute and 08-MAR-07

Read for the third time and adopted
as amended 08-MAR-07

Adopted By Voice Vote

Greg Pappas
Clerk