

1 HJR62
2 179686-4
3 By Representatives McCutcheon, Poole, Chesteen, Clouse, Greer,
4 Tuggle, Hurst, Patterson, Rich, Mooney, Fridy, Holmes (M),
5 Ainsworth, Ledbetter, Faulkner, Pettus, Jones, Henry, Wingo,
6 Williams (P) and Butler
7 RFD: Rules
8 First Read: 24-AUG-16

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 CREATING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON BUDGET
4 REFORM.

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6 WHEREAS, the citizens of Alabama expect and deserve
7 a stable, transparent, and effective government that meets the
8 needs of citizens through high quality and efficient programs
9 and services; and

10 WHEREAS, the expenditures of state government within
11 the General Fund are projected to continue growing at a level
12 that will outpace available revenues; and

13 WHEREAS, the existing structure of the state
14 budgeting process limits the ability of the Legislature to
15 address shortages in critical statewide programs and services;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, reforming current budgeting practices will
18 allow the Legislature to more thoroughly review and oversee
19 state agency spending, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are
20 being appropriated in the best manner possible; and

21 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Alabama's leaders to
22 make every effort to find tax relief that will have a broad
23 impact on Alabama families and to constantly strive to create
24 a tax system that does not pick winners and losers; now
25 therefore,

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

6 (a) The committee shall be composed of the
7 following:

8 (1) Seven members of the House appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House, two of whom must be members of the
10 minority caucus in the House.

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

14 (b) The task force shall evaluate and recommend
15 changes to state budgeting practices including, but not
16 limited to:

17 (1) Implementing a biennial budgeting cycle for the
18 Education Trust Fund and General Fund.

19 (2) Requiring state entities to undergo greater
20 performance and program reviews.

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

23 (4) Reviewing existing state tax credits,
24 deductions, and exemptions that result in the loss of
25 approximately \$4.5 billion in revenue to our state budgets

1 each year, and creating a policy to ensure that future tax
2 credits effectively provide economic gain to the state.

3 (5) Identifying areas to provide tax relief to
4 Alabama families without significantly impacting state
5 budgets.

6 (c) (1) The Speaker of the House and the President
7 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the
8 task force, which must be held not later than September 30,
9 2016. The task force shall elect a co-chair from the House of
10 Representatives and a co-chair from the Senate at its first
11 meeting. Upon the request of the chair, the Clerk of the House
12 and the Secretary of the Senate shall provide necessary
13 clerical assistance for the work of the task force.

14 (2) The task force shall meet monthly and shall
15 report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the
16 Legislature not later than the fifth legislative day of the
17 2017 Regular Session, whereupon the task force shall stand
18 dissolved and discharged of any further duties and
19 liabilities.

20 (d) Each member of the task force shall be entitled
21 to his or her regular legislative compensation, per diem, and
22 travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of
23 the task force in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
24 Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be paid
25 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by

1 means of warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the State
2 Treasury.

