

1 SJR81
2 67567-3
3 By Senators Barron, Tanner, Ross, Little (Z), Preuitt,
4 Lindsey, Waggoner, Penn, Butler, McClain, Holley, Little (T),
5 Sanders, Means, Byrne, Marsh, French, Figures, Dixon, Mitchem,
6 Denton, Steele, Enfinger, Mitchell, Poole, Smith, Lee, Biddle,
7 Dial, Escott, Smitherman, Erwin, and Bedford
8 RFD:
9 First Read: 15-APR-04

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ENROLLED, SJR81,
CREATING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE
HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, the cost of health care in Alabama has
increased at a double-digit rate in the past five years, and
significantly more citizens who do not have health care
insurance are using emergency rooms as a default for primary
care physicians thereby ignoring health maintenance and health
prevention activities offered by primary care physicians; and

WHEREAS, disproportionately, children, the aging
population, and rural citizens are victims of the health care
dilemma; and

WHEREAS, more businesses are requiring their
employees to pay greater premiums and copayments; there is one
dominant health insurance company in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's Medicaid funds are in crisis, and
must be addressed in order to maintain health care for
low-income residents and to protect our seniors; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a neutral, unaligned,
knowledgeable group to rapidly put forth unambiguous
recommendations and a need for clear actions that could be
taken by the Legislature to overcome obstacles to the
implementation of the proposed recommendations; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Emergency Response
3 Commission to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama is created.

4 The purpose and agenda of the commission in regard
5 to the health care crisis shall include the following:

6 (1) Develop implemental recommendations to: decrease
7 the cost of health care for Alabama citizens and businesses,
8 increase access to health care for Alabama citizens, and
9 improve the quality of health care for Alabama citizens.

10 (2) Identify specific obstacles which could impede
11 the implementation of these recommendations and propose
12 legislation that could correct the obstacles.

13 (3) Present specific recommendations to the
14 Legislature on appropriate public policies, including
15 potential legislative or regulatory initiatives, or both, to
16 help Alabama's health care industries.

17 (4) Communicate and coordinate the recommendations
18 and policies with existing health care efforts in the state.

19 (5) Identify and analyze the impact, both positive
20 and negative, on Alabama health care.

21 (6) Evaluate any current and potential public
22 policies at the state level which are related to health care.

23 (7) Present to the Alabama Legislature
24 recommendations on health issues including:

1 a. Appropriate steps that can be taken by the state,
2 either at the legislative level or by state agencies.

3 b. Specific suggestions or requests, supported by
4 appropriate data and analysis, for the Legislature to convey
5 to Alabama's congressional delegation and to the President.

6 In addition to the Senate President Pro Tempore, or
7 a designee of the Senate President Pro Tempore, members of the
8 commission shall include a representative of each of the
9 following, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore:

10 Pharmaceutical Manufacturers.

11 Huntsville Regional Medical Campus.

12 University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham.

13 Industrial Leader from Northern Region.

14 Alabama Hospital Association (rural hospital).

15 Nursing Home Association.

16 Small Business.

17 Independent Pharmacy Association.

18 State Public Health Agency.

19 State Health Planning Agency.

20 Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of
21 Pediatrics.

22 One member of the Senate.

23 The membership of the committee shall be inclusive
24 and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and
25 economic diversity of the state.

1 In addition to the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, or a designee of the Speaker, members of the
3 commission shall include a representative of each of the
4 following, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives:

- 6 Medical Association of the State of Alabama.
- 7 University of South Alabama Medical School.
- 8 Industrial Leader from Southern Region.
- 9 Alabama Hospital Association (metro/urban hospital).
- 10 Insurance Companies.
- 11 Small Business.
- 12 Alabama Dental Association.
- 13 PEEHIP.
- 14 Alabama Chiropractor's Association.
- 15 State Health Coordinating Council.
- 16 3 members of the House of Representatives.

17 In addition to the Governor, or a designee of the
18 Governor, members of the commission shall include a
19 representative of each of the following, appointed by the
20 Governor:

- 21 Business Council of Alabama.
- 22 Alabama Chamber of Commerce Association.
- 23 Alabama Association of Health Plans.
- 24 Alabama Association of Health Underwriters.

1 Medicare-designated Rural Referral Center (member of
2 Black-Belt community).

3 Alabama State Chiropractic's Association.

4 Get Healthy Alabama.

5 A Health Insurance Company.

6 Primary Care Physician Association.

7 Department of Human Resources.

8 UAB Health Systems.

9 Two At-Large Members.

10 In addition to the Lieutenant Governor, or a
11 designee of the Lieutenant Governor, members of the commission
12 shall include a representative of each of the following,
13 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor:

14 The Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

15 Medicaid.

16 University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School.

17 Industrial Leader from the Central Region.

18 Children's Health System (Children's Hospital).

19 Pharmacy Association.

20 Small Business.

21 Alabama Nurses Association.

22 Organized Labor.

23 Senior Citizens Representative.

24 State Mental Health and Retardation Agency.

25 One State Senator.

1 Appointments shall be made by Friday, May 21, 2004,
2 and the appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the
3 appointing authorities. The first meeting shall be called by
4 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to meet no later than
5 June 21, 2004, at which time the commission may elect a chair
6 and other officers, may organize itself, and may adopt
7 appropriate procedures.

8 Committee members shall submit a draft report no
9 later than January 1, 2005, and a final report is due no later
10 than May 1, 2005, at which time the commission shall stand
11 dissolved and discharged of its duties and responsibilities.

12 Upon the request of the commission, staff will be
13 provided by the UAB Huntsville Regional Medical Campus.

14 Each legislative member of the commission shall be
15 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his
16 or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she
17 attends a meeting of the commission. Upon requisitions signed
18 by the chair of the commission, these payments shall be paid
19 out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by
20 means of warrants drawn by the State Comptroller on the State
21 Treasury. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no legislative member
22 shall receive additional legislative compensation or per diem
23 when the Legislature is in session or if a legislative member
24 is being paid any other payments on the same dates for
25 attendance on other state business. The total expenditures of

1 the commission shall not exceed five thousand dollars.
2 (\$5,000).

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Senate 15-APR-04.
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Senate 04-MAY-04
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was adopted by the Senate, as amended by Executive Amendment.

McDowell Lee
Secretary

House of Representatives
Amended and Adopted: 27-APR-04
House of Representatives
Adopted: 04-MAY-04, as amended by Executive Amendment.

By: Senator Barron