

1 HR19
2 165116-1
3 By Representative McCutcheon
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 URGING THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND THE
9 GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

10
11 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama mandates
12 identification of students beginning second grade, but funding
13 has not historically been provided; and

14 WHEREAS, financial records show that the State of
15 Alabama spent one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and the State
16 of Arkansas, funding gifted at the next lowest level, provided
17 twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) for gifted student
18 programming; and

19 WHEREAS, financial records show that the State of
20 Alabama spent one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and the sister
21 States of Georgia and Mississippi, funded gifted student
22 programs at three hundred two million dollars (\$302,000,000)
23 and sixty million (\$60,000,000) for the same time frame,
24 respectively; and

25 WHEREAS, the benefits of gifted education to the
26 State of Alabama would include advancements in new
27 technologies, leadership in business, community, schools, and

1 state leadership, attraction of businesses that require
2 innovative individuals, increased pool of inventors and
3 entrepreneurs, productive citizens who will contribute to the
4 state's economy and global society; and

5 WHEREAS, high quality gifted programs can also serve
6 to draw businesses in search of employees who can fill high
7 tech jobs requiring math and science expertise, creative
8 thinking and problem solving skills; and

9 WHEREAS, by fully funding gifted education, our
10 students will be better prepared to compete with those
11 students from surrounding states for college admission,
12 scholarships, and later for jobs that will keep them located
13 in Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, the benefits of a gifted program to
15 students are enhanced leadership opportunities, development of
16 informed opinions, exposure to various perspectives and points
17 of view, establishment of goals leading to career options,
18 exploration of postsecondary education opportunities,
19 demonstration of 21st Century skills: Creativity, imagination,
20 collaboration, cooperation, service to others, and problem
21 solving strategies, participation in field experiences and
22 service learning, growth in social-emotional domains,
23 development of autonomous lifelong learners, and responsible
24 citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, the potential of gifted students may never
26 be realized unless their special learning needs are met;

1 appropriately staffed and supported gifted programming is
2 essential in meeting these needs; and

3 WHEREAS, gifted student programs, such as elementary
4 students at West Madison Elementary School, are grateful for
5 past legislative support and would appreciate continued
6 legislative support; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
8 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Alabama Legislature
9 continues to consistently move toward a fully funded mandate
10 for a robust gifted education program for the students of the
11 State of Alabama.