

1 SB333
2 175239-1
3 By Senators Singleton and Ward
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 08-MAR-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: Currently, an eight-member Permanent Joint
9 Legislative Committee is formed to assist in
10 implementing the recommendations of the Legislative
11 Prison Task Force.

12 This bill would increase the membership of
13 the committee from 8 to 10.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

18
19 To amend Section 29-2-20, Code of Alabama 1975, as
20 amended by Act 2015-185, 2015 Regular Session, relating to the
21 Permanent Joint Legislative Committee; to increase the number
22 of members serving on the committee.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 29-2-20, Code of Alabama 1975, as
25 amended by Act 2015-185, 2015 Regular Session, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 "§29-2-20.

1 "(a) A permanent legislative committee which shall
2 be composed of ~~eight~~ 10 members, two of whom shall be ex
3 officio members and ~~six~~ eight of whom shall be appointed
4 members, ~~three each~~ four to be appointed by the President of
5 the Senate and Speaker of the House, who shall both serve as
6 the ex officio members, shall be formed to assist in realizing
7 the recommendations of the Legislative Prison Task Force and
8 examine all aspects of the operations of the Department of
9 Corrections. The chairman of the committee shall be selected
10 by and from among the membership. The committee shall make a
11 diligent inquiry and a full examination of Alabama's present
12 and long term prison needs and they shall file reports of
13 their findings and recommendations to the Alabama Legislature
14 not later than the fifteenth legislative day of each regular
15 session that the committee continues to exist.

16 "(b) The committee shall study and address mental
17 health issues for prisoners reentering the community after a
18 term of imprisonment in order to streamline the sharing of
19 critical mental health information and in order to address
20 barriers to accessing mental health treatment for such
21 prisoners. The committee shall report such findings to the
22 Legislature no later than April 20, 2016, and shall work in
23 conjunction with the following in studying and addressing such
24 issues:

25 "(1) Department of Corrections;

26 "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;

27 "(3) Department of Mental Health;

1 "(4) Administrative Office of Courts;
2 "(5) Office of Prosecution Services;
3 "(6) Office of the Attorney General;
4 "(7) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;
5 "(8) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;
6 "(9) Alabama Probate Judges Association;
7 "(10) Alabama Sheriffs' Association;
8 "(11) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;
9 "(12) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;
10 "(13) Department of Public Health;
11 "(14) Office of the Governor;
12 "(15) Alabama District Attorneys Association;
13 "(16) Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force; and
14 "(17) Any other advocacy groups as determined by the
15 committee.

16 "(c) The committee shall study and address issues
17 related to felony restitution collection in order to improve
18 rates of collection for restitution obligations in felony
19 cases and establish best practices relating to a defendant's
20 ability to pay obligations owed. The committee shall report
21 such findings to the Legislature no later than April 20, 2016,
22 and shall work in conjunction with the following in studying
23 and addressing such issues:

24 "(1) Department of Corrections;
25 "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;
26 "(3) Administrative Office of Courts;
27 "(4) Office of Prosecution Services;

1 "(5) Office of the Attorney General;
2 "(6) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;
3 "(7) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;
4 "(8) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;
5 "(9) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;
6 "(10) Alabama Sheriffs' Association;
7 "(11) Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission;
8 "(12) The Alabama Circuit Clerk's Association;
9 "(13) Two crime victims' rights advocates designated
10 by the Attorney General;
11 "(14) Two members from the Alabama District
12 Attorneys Association, of which one shall be from a largely
13 populated metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be
14 from a small, rurally populated judicial circuit; and
15 "(15) Any other advocacy groups as determined by the
16 committee.
17 "(d) The committee shall study and address capacity
18 issues within the Department of Corrections to include, but
19 not limited to, the issue of design capacity and operational
20 or functional capacity, as well as the construction of new
21 prison facilities and the renovation of current correctional
22 facilities as they relate to prison overcrowding and public
23 safety. The committee shall report such findings to the
24 Legislature no later than April 20, 2016, and shall work in
25 conjunction with the following in studying and addressing such
26 issues:
27 "(1) Department of Corrections;

- 1 "(2) Board of Pardons and Paroles;
2 "(3) Department of Mental Health;
3 "(4) Department of Public Health;
4 "(5) Administrative Office of Courts;
5 "(6) Office of Prosecution Services;
6 "(7) Office of the Attorney General;
7 "(8) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency;
8 "(9) Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force;
9 "(10) Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;
10 "(11) Alabama Circuit Judges' Association;
11 "(12) Association of County Commissions of Alabama;
12 "(13) Two members from the Alabama Sheriffs'

13 Association, of which one shall be from a largely populated
14 metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be from a
15 small, rurally populated judicial circuit; and

16 "(14) Two members from the Alabama District
17 Attorneys Association, of which one shall be from a largely
18 populated metropolitan judicial circuit and the other shall be
19 from a small, rurally populated judicial circuit.

20 "(e) The studies and collaborating partners provided
21 for in this section shall reflect the racial, gender,
22 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state."

23 Section 2. This act shall become effective
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.