

1 SJR95
2 201879-3
3 By Senators Whatley and Price
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 28-MAY-19

1 SJR95

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4 ENROLLED, SJR95,

5 ENCOURAGING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO
6 DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR REMOVING DEBRIS AFTER A
7 NATURAL DISASTER.

8
9 WHEREAS, every year the residents of the State of
10 Alabama are faced with the possibility of a natural disaster
11 destroying their homes and affecting their communities, most
12 often by tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods; and

13 WHEREAS, when a community begins the rebuilding
14 process after a natural disaster, in addition to coping with
15 the devastating loss of life, often one of the greatest
16 challenges to overcome is how to properly and timely remove
17 disaster-related debris, which can be left behind for weeks or
18 even months following the natural disaster; and

19 WHEREAS, disaster debris typically includes downed
20 trees, limbs, shrubs, solid waste such as household garbage
21 and personal belongings, construction and demolition debris
22 such as entire residential structures and their contents,
23 vehicles, food waste, household and outdoor appliances and
24 equipment, and all types of hazardous waste, including
25 cleaning agents, pesticides, and pool chemicals, which can be

1 highly toxic to residents and volunteers assisting in the
2 cleanup and rebuild of the area; and

3 WHEREAS, to facilitate the recovery of the area,
4 debris removal is a vital part of the process and proper
5 consideration and management of the removal is necessary to
6 ensure the debris does not pose future threats to the health
7 and safety of residents and the environment; and

8 WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the Federal
9 Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection
10 Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide disaster
11 response and assist in the management of debris clearance,
12 removal, and disposal; and

13 WHEREAS, at the state and local level, the Executive
14 branch, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Alabama
15 Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Department
16 of Transportation, the Association of County Commissions of
17 Alabama, the League of Municipalities, local emergency
18 management agencies, along with other state and local
19 agencies, provide critical emergency assistance to
20 storm-ravaged areas in the state, but are limited in their
21 debris removal assistance after the storms have passed; and

22 WHEREAS, to better assist communities in such a
23 crucial time of need, a comprehensive debris removal policy
24 that includes, but is not limited to, the cost of debris
25 removal, the responsibilities of each assisting local, state,

1 or federal agency in the debris removal process, and a time
2 frame for completion of the debris removal would greatly
3 improve the likelihood that a community affected by a natural
4 disaster can timely begin to rebuild and move forward after a
5 natural disaster; and

6 WHEREAS, whenever possible, the local, state, or
7 federal agencies involved in the debris removal process are
8 urged to use local contractors to implement and execute the
9 debris removal and to facilitate other assistance in the
10 aftermath of a natural disaster in accordance with the
11 policies created and established by the comprehensive debris
12 removal policy; and

13 WHEREAS, without a proper comprehensive debris
14 removal policy after a natural disaster, managing potentially
15 huge volumes of mixed debris can be complicated for an already
16 overwhelmed community; a comprehensive debris removal policy
17 outlining the costs, agency responsibilities, and management
18 of the process will provide better preparedness to restore
19 public services and ensure the public health and safety in the
20 aftermath of a disaster and better position communities to
21 receive the full level of assistance available to them from
22 all local, state, and federal sources; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we encourage all local, state,
25 and federal agencies equipped to assist with debris removal

1 after a natural disaster to work together to develop a
2 comprehensive policy for removing debris from communities
3 affected by a natural disaster.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the local,
5 state, or federal agencies involved in the debris removal
6 process to use local contractors to implement and execute the
7 debris removal and to facilitate other assistance in the
8 aftermath of a natural disaster in accordance with the
9 policies created and established by the comprehensive debris
10 removal policy.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR95
Senate 28-MAY-19
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 30-MAY-19

By: Senator Whatley