

1 HB537
2 137933-1
3 By Representative Mitchell
4 RFD: Internal Affairs
5 First Read: 14-MAR-12

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama House of
9 Representatives does not maintain a legislative
10 record concerning certain matters related to the
11 legislative process.

12 This bill would require the Clerk of the
13 Alabama House of Representatives to establish
14 procedures to implement and maintain a legislative
15 record concerning matters related to the
16 legislative process.

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18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT
21

22 To require the Clerk of the Alabama House of
23 Representatives to establish procedures to implement and
24 maintain a legislative record concerning matters related to
25 the legislative process.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. (a) The Clerk of the Alabama House of
2 Representatives shall establish procedures to implement and
3 maintain a legislative record concerning matters related to
4 the legislative process.

5 (b) The legislative record shall include, but is not
6 limited to, a verbatim copy of discussions in committee
7 meetings, committee reports, committee votes, floor debates,
8 discussions during public hearings, insertion of statements
9 into the record by individual members as to why the member
10 voted for or against an instrument or took a particular
11 action, and insertion of other materials upon the request of a
12 member.

13 (c) The legislative record may be included as a part
14 of the journal, as a separate publication, or in a separate
15 digital or computer form. The legislative record may be
16 similar in form and content to the U.S. Congressional Record.

17 (d) In establishing the legislative record, the
18 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall consider all of
19 the following factors:

- 20 (1) Cost effectiveness and feasibility.
21 (2) Accessibility and availability.
22 (3) Usefulness.
23 (4) Accuracy.
24 (5) Ability to fulfill historical preservation
25 purposes.

26 (e) The clerk, within a reasonable time after the
27 adjournment sine die of a session of the Legislature, shall

1 compile, index, and publish the legislative record. The clerk
2 may also publish the legislative record at shorter intervals.

3 (f) The clerk may charge a reasonable fee for the
4 legislative record, the proceeds of which shall be used to
5 defray costs of such publication.

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.