

1 SJR5
2 215476-1
3 By Senator Williams
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 29-OCT-21

CREATING THE FARM-TO-SCHOOLS TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, some public schools in Alabama are dangerously close to closing because they do not have an adequate food supply to feed students due to COVID-related supply issues; and

WHEREAS, Farm-to-school programs enrich the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food, and local agricultural producers by modifying food purchasing and education practices at schools and other educational settings; and

WHEREAS, through these programs, students gain access to healthy, local foods, as well as educational opportunities in agriculture; farm-to-school programs empower children and their families to make informed food choices while enhancing the local economy and building strong communities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that this state address the food shortage in public schools by implementing and administering a farm-to-school program that prioritizes

1 solutions for the education of Alabama's next generation; now
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the
5 Farm-to-Schools Task Force to study and develop a
6 farm-to-school food program facilitating the purchase of fresh
7 vegetables and other produce from local farmers and producers
8 by the state or local boards of education to alleviate the
9 current food shortage in public schools in this state.

10 (a) The task force shall consist of the following
11 members:

12 (1) Four senators appointed by the President Pro
13 Tempore of the Senate.

14 (2) Four representatives appointed by the Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (3) One member appointed by the Governor.

17 (4) The Superintendent of Education, or his or her
18 designee.

19 (5) The Commissioner of the Department of
20 Agriculture and Industries, or his or her designee.

21 (6) The Director of Finance, or his or her designee.

22 (b) All appointing authorities shall coordinate
23 their appointments so that diversity of gender, race, and
24 geographical areas is reflective of the makeup of this state.

25 (c) (1) Each legislative member of the task force
26 shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative
27 compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for each day of

1 attendance at a meeting of the task force in accordance with
2 Amendment 871 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

3 (2) Each non-legislative member of the task force
4 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses and travel for each
5 day of attendance at a meeting of the task force according to
6 the policies and practices of the employers of
7 the members appointed.

8 (d) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and
9 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first
10 meeting of the task force, which must be held not later than
11 December 1, 2022. The task force shall elect a co-chair from
12 the House of Representatives and a co-chair from the Senate at
13 its first meeting.

14 (e) The Legislative Services Agency, the Clerk of
15 the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate
16 shall provide administrative and other assistance for the work
17 of the task force as necessary.

18 (f) The task force may hold meetings at the call of
19 the chair or a majority of its members.

20 (g) The task force shall present a report of its
21 findings, which shall include its recommendations for
22 legislation or other measures necessary for the successful
23 implementation of a farm-to-schools program, if any, to the
24 Legislature on or before the last legislative day of the 2022
25 Regular Session, at which time it shall stand dissolved.