

1 SJR90  
2 192571-1  
3 By Senator Marsh  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 06-MAR-18

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8 ALABAMA, THE STATE OF CHARACTER.

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10 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Legislature acknowledged our  
11 nation's history and the importance of teaching and promoting  
12 character principles in order to develop a successful  
13 workforce and citizenry by including the Alabama Character  
14 Education Mandate in the Education Reform Act of that year  
15 (Act 95-313), requiring public schools to teach all students  
16 26 character traits for no less than 10 minutes each day; and

17 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama recognized the  
18 importance of citizens with honorable character qualities  
19 based upon the moral standards upon which our nation and legal  
20 system are established; and

21 WHEREAS, we desire to build upon our heritage in  
22 making Alabama a place where families are strong, homes and  
23 streets are safe, education is effective, business is  
24 productive, neighbors care about one another, and citizens are  
25 free to make wise choices for their lives and families; and

26 WHEREAS, we recognize that individuals are  
27 responsible for their actions and that daily decisions should

1 be based upon sound timeless values that are the basis of  
2 universally recognized character qualities, including  
3 kindness, courage, loyalty, diligence, generosity,  
4 truthfulness, honesty, and obedience; and

5 WHEREAS, irresponsibility and a lack of commitment  
6 to these values have resulted in an increasing number of  
7 family problems causing personal, social, and financial  
8 consequences to individual family members and to society as a  
9 whole; and

10 WHEREAS, when people fail to demonstrate positive  
11 character qualities or make poor moral choices, the health,  
12 safety, and welfare of the citizens are endangered, resulting  
13 in financial burden upon the taxpayers for the costs of lower  
14 productivity and increased social services and law  
15 enforcement; many current societal problems will be alleviated  
16 when citizens live by positive and constructive character  
17 qualities that distinguish between right and wrong, and it has  
18 been shown that teaching and reinforcing positive character  
19 qualities to juvenile delinquents produces a change of  
20 behavior, reducing recidivism rates; and

21 WHEREAS, our prisons far exceed planned capacity and  
22 there is a need for more positive role models among our young  
23 people to discourage juvenile delinquency and for these  
24 individuals to understand those qualities that have made our  
25 country strong and prosperous; and

1           WHEREAS, our schools should be safe climates in  
2           which character is exemplified, taught, and strengthened, and  
3           learning is encouraged; and

4           WHEREAS, encouraging employees by recognizing  
5           positive character qualities has resulted in an increase in  
6           workplace morale, employee safety, and corporate profits; such  
7           action is essential as Alabama competes for 21st Century jobs  
8           with states in which character is emphasized; and

9           WHEREAS, presidents throughout our nation's history  
10          have promoted character principles and have encouraged  
11          character education as a high priority for America's schools;  
12          many other highly regarded civic leaders have extolled  
13          character as among the qualities by which all people should be  
14          judged; and

15          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature must deal with the  
16          challenge of allocating and stretching very limited resources  
17          very far, because of education and social needs; and

18          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature has repeatedly  
19          appealed for the promotion of character-building strategies  
20          through its approval of "Alabama, a State of Character"  
21          resolutions in 2000, 2005, 2008, and 2014, and the Alabama  
22          House of Representatives in 2011; and

23          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature again appeals for  
24          character-building strategies to be promoted in a  
25          collaborative way by partners, and we, as Alabama lawmakers,  
26          again appeal for there to be creative efforts to support and  
27          promote practical and affordable strategies for this state

1       which will help Alabama to take the lead with the "States of  
2       Character" movement; now therefore,

3               BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4       HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we reaffirm our 2000, 2005,  
5       2008, and 2014 declarations of Alabama as a State of  
6       Character, and appeal to partners to collaborate when  
7       developing and supporting the implementation of character  
8       building strategies. We pledge to do all in our power to  
9       promote this Alabama, The State of Character resolution and  
10      character education in our schools, businesses, homes,  
11      churches, local governments, state agencies, media, and  
12      community groups, and we urge leaders of each of these areas  
13      to do likewise.