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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Literacy Task Force is responsible for recommending reading assessments vetted and approved by the State Department of Education.

This bill would provide further for the duties of the task force and would revise the membership of the task force.

This bill would also provide for the compensation of members, leadership, and meetings of the task force.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Literacy Task Force; to amend Section 16-6G-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further for the duties and membership of the task force; to provide for the compensation of members; to provide for the chair and vice chair; and to provide for meetings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-6G-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:



29 "§16-6G-3

30 (a) The State Superintendent of Education shall convene
31 a standing Literacy Task Force by December 1, 2019, to provide
32 recommendations for comprehensive core reading and reading
33 intervention programs, a state continuum of teacher
34 development for approved science of reading pursuant to
35 subsection (e) of Section 16-6G-6~~7~~; and an annual list of
36 vetted ~~and approved~~ assessments that are valid and reliable
37 reading screening, formative, and diagnostic assessment
38 systems for selection and use by local education agencies.~~The~~
39 ~~task force shall meet in regular session at least twice a~~
40 ~~year.~~ In future reviews, the task force shall add an element
41 to the core reading and intervention program rubrics to review
42 content for age appropriateness. The list finalized by the
43 State Superintendent of Education for the 2021-2022 school
44 year shall be valid for a period of five years, beginning with
45 the date of approval. The vetted and approved list of
46 assessments by the task force shall be valid for a period of
47 three years, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.
48 Assessments may be added during that time period, but not
49 removed. Any changes must be approved by the task force. The
50 task force shall endeavor to include multiple vendors in each
51 approved list. The task force shall make public all rubrics
52 and measurements used to determine eligibility and compliance
53 for all assessments that applied for consideration. All
54 appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments so
55 that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is
56 reflective of the makeup of this state. The State Department



57 of Education shall verify that each appointee satisfies the
58 credentials under which he or she was appointed. The
59 membership of the task force shall include all of the
60 following appointees, each of whom shall have at least three
61 years of experience with scientifically based reading
62 instruction:

63 (1) The Director of the Alabama Reading Initiative.

64 ~~(1)~~ (2) Two public K-12 teachers appointed by the
65 Executive Director of the Alabama Education Association.

66 ~~(2)~~ (3) One public K-12 special education teacher
67 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

68 ~~(3)~~ (4) Three Certified Academic Dyslexia Therapists,
69 who have been certified for a minimum of three years,
70 appointed by the Alabama Branch of the International Dyslexia
71 Association.

72 ~~(4)~~ (5) Two public school principals appointed by the
73 Executive Director of the Council for Leaders in Alabama
74 Schools.

75 ~~(5)~~ (6) One local superintendent of education appointed
76 by the Executive Director of the School Superintendents of
77 Alabama.

78 ~~(6)~~ (7) One local board of education member appointed by
79 the Alabama Association of School Boards.

80 ~~(7)~~ (8) One national expert in literacy member appointed
81 by the State Superintendent of Education.

82 ~~(8)~~ (9) One early childhood educator appointed by the
83 Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood
84 Education.



85 ~~(9)~~ (10) One dean of a college of education appointed by
86 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

87 ~~(10)~~ (11) Seven additional members, including two public
88 K-12 teachers, four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor
89 and three by the State Superintendent of Education.

90 (b) Members appointed to the task force shall be
91 appointed to serve a four-year term and may be reappointed to
92 serve one additional two-year term.

93 (c) The members of the task force shall be reimbursed
94 through the department for expenses incurred in the
95 performance of their duties for the task force in the same
96 manner and at the same rate as is provided for state
97 employees. Subject to appropriations, nothing in this chapter
98 shall limit payment for their service.

99 (1) The Director of the Alabama Reading Initiative
100 shall serve as chair, and a vice chair shall be elected by the
101 membership of the task force. If the position of director is
102 vacant, the vice chair shall serve as chair until the State
103 Superintendent of Education appoints a new director.

104 (2) The task force shall meet at least twice a year.
105 The task force shall set meeting dates and times, set agendas,
106 vote, and develop recommendations for the State Superintendent
107 of Education. All task force meetings and subcommittee
108 meetings shall be publicly posted along with a complete
109 listing of all task force members.

110 ~~(b)~~ (d) Each approved assessment system shall do all of
111 the following:

112 (1) Provide screening and diagnostic capabilities for



113 monitoring student progress.

114 (2) Measure, at a minimum, phonological awareness, oral
115 language, the alphabetic principle, including letter naming,
116 letter sound, and sound letter correspondences, decoding,
117 encoding, accuracy, vocabulary, and comprehension.

118 (3) Identify students who have a reading deficiency,
119 including identifying students with characteristics of
120 dyslexia.

121 (4) Provides predictive validity with regard to the
122 state summative assessment.

123 ~~(e)~~ (e) In determining which assessment systems to
124 approve for use by local education agencies, the task force,
125 at a minimum, shall also consider all of the following
126 factors:

127 (1) The time required to conduct the assessments, with
128 the intention of minimizing the impact on instructional time.

129 (2) The level of integration of assessment results with
130 instructional support for teachers and students.

131 (3) The timeliness in reporting assessment results to
132 teachers, administrators, and parents."

133 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately
134 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its
135 otherwise becoming law.