

1 HJR130  
2 190856-1  
3 By Representatives Coleman, Hall, Moore (M), Rogers, Bracy,  
4 Jackson, Grimsley, Boyd, Howard, Buskey, Beech, Chestnut,  
5 Lawrence, Hollis, McClammy, Warren, Drummond, Forte, Clarke,  
6 Black, Daniels, England, McCampbell and Lindsey  
7 RFD: Rules  
8 First Read: 01-FEB-18

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8 URGING THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR THE ALABAMA  
9 READING INITIATIVE.

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11 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Alabama Department of  
12 Education began the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) to focus  
13 on improving literacy skills for K-12 students; and

14 WHEREAS, the ARI provided state-funded reading  
15 coaches in every elementary school across Alabama and  
16 intensive professional development for teachers and school  
17 leaders to assure that all students would become skillful  
18 readers; and

19 WHEREAS, from 2003 to 2011, Alabama's 4th graders  
20 made more progress in reading on the National Assessment of  
21 Educational Progress than students from any other state in the  
22 nation; and

23 WHEREAS, Alabama met the national average in 4th  
24 grade reading for the first time, and was one of only four  
25 states in the nation, second only to Maryland, to show  
26 increases in 4th grade reading from 2009 to 2011; and

1                   WHEREAS, cuts to funding and frequent deviations in  
2 the ARI have weakened its effectiveness, leading to a  
3 significant backslide in students' reading readiness and  
4 literacy skills; and

5                   WHEREAS, the mission of the ARI is to put  
6 specialized reading coaches armed with evidence-based teaching  
7 methods in schools where they are needed the most; and

8                   WHEREAS, literacy skills provide the foundation for  
9 all learning; now therefore,

10                  BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the State of Alabama must  
12 fully support, retool, and refocus the Alabama Reading  
13 Initiative with a "back to basics" approach by restoring  
14 funding for the Alabama Reading Initiative.