

1 HJR832  
2 120334-2  
3 By Representative DeMarco  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 06-APR-10

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
CREATING THE ALABAMA INNOVATION COUNCIL STUDY  
COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, amidst increasing economic competition from other states and countries, Alabama must aggressively pursue and leverage science, technology, and innovation as a means to grow and diversify its economy; and

WHEREAS, given the broad scope and interdependence of science-, technology-, and innovation-related activities such as targeted research investments, commercialization efforts, and the development of high technology enterprises, sustained and coordinated statewide leadership is needed to strategically advance an Alabama innovation agenda; and

WHEREAS, it is in Alabama's best interest to encourage research, innovation, and high technology enterprises and to enable Alabama's research universities to better promote, educate, and train researchers and research support staff in scientific fields of study; and

WHEREAS, the general welfare and material well-being of the citizens of Alabama depend on immediate action to develop a strong entrepreneurial economy characterized by science, technology, and innovation; now therefore,

1           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Innovation Council  
3 Study Commission is established. The Commission shall consist  
4 of 26 members as follows: the Presidents of Alabama A&M  
5 University, Alabama State University, Auburn University,  
6 Tuskegee University, The University of Alabama, The University  
7 of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in  
8 Huntsville, and the University of South Alabama; seven members  
9 appointed by the Governor, who shall be principals of  
10 preeminent Alabama businesses; four members appointed by the  
11 Lieutenant Governor, who shall be principals of preeminent  
12 Alabama businesses; five members appointed by the Speaker of  
13 the House of Representatives, who shall be principals of  
14 preeminent Alabama businesses; the legislative sponsor of this  
15 resolution, who shall serve in an advisory capacity only; and  
16 the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher  
17 Education, who shall serve in an advisory capacity only. The  
18 Membership of the Commission shall be inclusive and reflect  
19 the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic  
20 diversity of the State. The Commission shall report to the  
21 Legislature by the second legislative day of the 2011 Regular  
22 Session the extent to which the Commission has complied with  
23 the diversity provisions provided for in this resolution. All  
24 appointments of members of the Commission shall be made no  
25 later than 30 days after the date of final passage of this

1 resolution. Ther Commission shall hold an initial meeting no  
2 later than 60 days after the date of final passage of this  
3 resolution. The initial meeting of the Commission shall be  
4 called by the legislative sponsor of this resolution, who  
5 shall provide notice of the meeting to each member of the  
6 Commission. The Commission shall elect a chair and other  
7 officers and adopt appropriate procedures at the initial  
8 meeting of the Commission. The Commission shall act on an  
9 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the  
10 Commission in attendance, providing that neither the  
11 legislative sponsor of this resolution nor the Executive  
12 Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall  
13 have the power to vote or be included in the determination of  
14 a majority of the members in attendance. The Commission shall  
15 study all aspects of creating a statewide innovation council  
16 (Council). The issues shall involve, but not be limited to,  
17 whether the creation of a Council would make Alabama a more  
18 desirable state in which to conduct, facilitate, support,  
19 fund, and perform science, technology, and innovation research  
20 development, and commercialization; whether an innovation  
21 council would facilitate the creation, attraction, retention,  
22 growth, and enhancement of both existing and new science,  
23 technology, and innovation companies in Alabama; whether the  
24 creation of a Council would make Alabama a leader in science,  
25 technology, and innovation; and whether the creation of a

1 Council would create new jobs, retain quality jobs, foster  
2 economic growth, advance scientific, technological, and  
3 innovative knowledge, and improve the quality of life of the  
4 citizens of Alabama.

5 The Legislature, the Legislative Reference Service,  
6 and the Legislative Fiscal Office are hereby directed to  
7 assist the Commission in the performance of its functions and,  
8 to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality,  
9 to furnish such information and advice as are necessary for  
10 the members of the Commission to perform their functions. Upon  
11 the request of the chair, the Secretary of the Senate and the  
12 Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide necessary  
13 clerical assistance for the work of the Commission. The  
14 Commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 1,  
16 2010, and shall submit a final report of its findings and  
17 recommendations, to include any proposed legislative  
18 instruments, to the Legislature no later than the first  
19 legislative day of the 2011 Regular Session, whereupon the  
20 Commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further  
21 duties and liabilities. In carrying out its prescribed  
22 functions, the Commission shall have the power to solicit,  
23 accept, receive, and expend funds from any private source and,  
24 subject to available funds, may employ and provide for the  
25 compensation of a staff, provided that no member of the staff

1        may be an employee of the State of Alabama. Members of the  
2        Commission shall serve without compensation.

