

SB271 INTRODUCED



1 SB271
2 YFPAN22-1
3 By Senator Shelnutt
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 02-Apr-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence Commission within the Attorney General's Office to research and recommend remedies to address anti-Semitism and faith-based persecution.

This bill would require the commission to submit an annual report on its findings to the Governor and the Legislature.

This bill would also create the position of the Director of the Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence Commission within the Executive Division of the Attorney General's Office.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to religious persecution; to create the Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence Commission within the Attorney General's Office; to provide for the duties of the commission and require an annual report; to create the position of Director of the Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence Commission within the Executive Division of the Attorney General's Office; and to provide for the duties of the



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29 director.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the following
32 terms have the following meanings:

33 (1) COMMISSION. The Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence
34 Commission created in Section 2.

35 (2) DIRECTOR. The Director of the Alabama Faith-Based
36 Intelligence Commission.

37 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence
38 Commission is established within the Office of the Attorney
39 General.

40 (b) (1) The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the
41 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
42 House of Representatives shall each appoint three members to
43 the commission.

44 (2) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
45 appointments to assure that: (i) the members of the commission
46 represent the regions of Auburn, Birmingham, Huntsville,
47 Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa; and (ii) the commission
48 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, and
49 economic diversity of the state.

50 (3) The term of office of a commission member shall be
51 four years.

52 (c) The commission shall:

53 (1) Conduct research on issues relating to
54 anti-Semitism and faith-based persecution, including, but not
55 limited to:

56 a. The history and status of anti-Semitism and



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57 faith-based persecution, with an emphasis on Alabama history;

58 b. The definition and ideology of anti-Semitism and
59 faith-based persecution;

60 c. Misconceptions and stereotyping relating to Jewish
61 people and other faith-based people; and

62 d. Discrimination and systematic failings relating to
63 the fair treatment of Jewish and faith-based people.

64 (2) Recommend appropriate ways to educate Alabama
65 residents about the findings of the commission.

66 (3) Recommend appropriate remedies to address the harms
67 caused by anti-Semitism and faith-based persecution in light
68 of the commission's findings.

69 (d) (1) The director of the commission shall serve as
70 the chair of the commission. He or she shall call the first
71 meeting of the commission, at which the members may elect a
72 vice chair from among the membership.

73 (2) The commission shall hold at least four public
74 meetings each year. Meetings may not be conducted virtually.

75 (e) (1) Any legislative members of the commission shall
76 be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
77 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
78 commission pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of
79 Alabama of 2022.

80 (2) The nonlegislative members of the commission shall
81 serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary
82 expenses in attending meetings of the commission pursuant to
83 the policies of their respective appointing authority.

84 (f) No later than October 1, 2025, and each October 1



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85 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report of its
86 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
87 Legislature.

88 Section 3. (a) The commission shall be managed by a
89 director of the Alabama Faith-Based Intelligence Commission,
90 who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the
91 Attorney General. The director shall serve as the chair of the
92 commission and shall complete other duties, as assigned by the
93 Attorney General.

94 (b) The term of office of each director shall be four
95 years.

96 (c) The director shall be a full-time, compensated
97 position within the Executive Division of the Attorney
98 General's Office. The director's salary shall be fixed by the
99 Attorney General and shall not be subject to Section 36-6-6,
100 Code of Alabama 1975.

101 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
102 1, 2024.