

1 SJR10  
2 147761-1  
3 By Senators McGill, Sanford, Bussman, Fielding, Waggoner,  
4 Ward, Brewbaker, Bedford, Taylor, Scofield, Williams, Whatley,  
5 Reed, and Allen  
6 RFD:  
7 First Read: 06-FEB-13

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8 AFFIRMING THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT 448 OF  
9 THE CONSTITUTION OF ALABAMA OF 1901, KNOWN AS THE BUDGET  
10 ISOLATION AMENDMENT.  
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12 WHEREAS, the adoption of Amendment 448 of the  
13 Constitution of Alabama of 1901 by the people of Alabama in  
14 1984 affirmed that the paramount duty of the Legislature is to  
15 make basic appropriations during regular sessions, ensuring  
16 that the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative, and  
17 judicial departments of the state, for payment of the public  
18 debt, and for education, shall be the first order of business  
19 before any other matter; and

20 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 requires the Governor to  
21 submit budget proposals to the House of Representatives and  
22 Senate for consideration no later than the second legislative  
23 day; and

24 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 requires that before any  
25 single bill, local or general, may be transmitted from one  
26 chamber to the other, that the House and Senate shall pass the  
27 budgets and that those budgets be signed by the presiding

1 officers of each house of the Legislature and that they be  
2 presented to the Governor; and

3 WHEREAS, Amendment 448 contains a provision,  
4 commonly known as the Bill Isolation Resolution or BIR, by  
5 which an exception is allowed to temporarily set aside the  
6 budget isolation requirement established by Amendment 448 upon  
7 a three-fifths vote of the House or Senate by resolution,  
8 declaring that the provisions shall not applicable to a bill  
9 specified in the resolution by number and title; and

10 WHEREAS, in recent years application of the BIR has  
11 become commonplace in nature resulting in the Legislature  
12 paying little heed to the mandate of Amendment 448, that the  
13 budgets shall be prioritized before all other legislation; and

14 WHEREAS, in recent Legislative sessions, passage of  
15 the budgets did not occur until the final days or hours of the  
16 legislative session; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That beginning with the 2013  
19 Regular Session and sessions following, we reaffirm our  
20 commitment to the people's will, ardently expressed in their  
21 passage of Amendment 448, and acknowledge our paramount duty  
22 of passing the budgets in a timely manner and that our actions  
23 will promote accountability and budget transparency through  
24 embracing the spirit and intent of the Budget Isolation  
25 Amendment.