

1 SJR61  
2 159112-2  
3 By Senators Orr, Pittman, Allen, Hightower, Bussman, Taylor,  
4 Scofield, Williams and Marsh  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 25-FEB-14

1 SJR61

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4 ENROLLED, SJR61,

5 ALABAMA, THE STATE OF CHARACTER.

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7 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Legislature acknowledged our  
8 nation's history and the importance of teaching and promoting  
9 character principles in order to develop a successful  
10 workforce and citizenry by including the Alabama Character  
11 Education Mandate in the Education Reform Act of that year  
12 (Act 95-313), requiring public schools to teach all students  
13 26 character traits for no less than 10 minutes each day; and

14 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama recognized the  
15 importance of citizens with honorable character qualities  
16 based upon the moral standards upon which our nation and legal  
17 system are established; and

18 WHEREAS, we desire to build upon our heritage in  
19 making Alabama a place where families are strong, homes and  
20 streets are safe, education is effective, business is  
21 productive, neighbors care about one another, and citizens are  
22 free to make wise choices for their lives and families; and

23 WHEREAS, we recognize that individuals are  
24 responsible for their actions and that daily decisions should  
25 be based upon sound timeless values that are the basis of

1 universally recognized character qualities, including  
2 kindness, courage, loyalty, diligence, generosity,  
3 truthfulness, honesty, and obedience; and

4 WHEREAS, irresponsibility and a lack of commitment  
5 to these values have resulted in an increasing number of  
6 family problems causing personal, social, and financial  
7 consequences to individual family members and to society as a  
8 whole; and

9 WHEREAS, when people fail to demonstrate positive  
10 character qualities or make poor moral choices, the health,  
11 safety, and welfare of the citizens are endangered, resulting  
12 in financial burden upon the taxpayers for the costs of lower  
13 productivity and increased social services and law  
14 enforcement; many current societal problems will be alleviated  
15 when citizens live by positive and constructive character  
16 qualities that distinguish between right and wrong, and it has  
17 been shown that teaching and reinforcing positive character  
18 qualities to juvenile delinquents produces a change of  
19 behavior, reducing recidivism rates; and

20 WHEREAS, our prisons far exceed planned capacity and  
21 there is a need for more positive role models among our young  
22 people to discourage juvenile delinquency and for these  
23 individuals to understand those qualities that have made our  
24 country strong and prosperous; and

1           WHEREAS, our schools should be safe climates in  
2           which character is exemplified, taught, and strengthened, and  
3           learning is encouraged; and

4           WHEREAS, encouraging employees by recognizing  
5           positive character qualities has resulted in an increase in  
6           workplace morale, employee safety, and corporate profits; such  
7           action is essential as Alabama competes for 21st Century jobs  
8           with states in which character is emphasized; and

9           WHEREAS, presidents throughout our nation's history  
10          have promoted character principles and have encouraged  
11          character education as a high priority for America's schools;  
12          many other highly regarded civic leaders have extolled  
13          character as among the qualities by which all people should be  
14          judged; and

15          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature must deal with the  
16          challenge of allocating and stretching very limited resources  
17          very far, because of education and social needs; and

18          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature has repeatedly  
19          appealed through its approving "Alabama, a State of Character"  
20          resolutions in 2000, 2005, and 2008, and the Alabama House in  
21          2011; and

22          WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature again appeals for  
23          character-building strategies to be promoted in a  
24          collaborative way by partners, and we as Alabama lawmakers  
25          again appeal for there to be creative efforts to support and

1 promote practical and affordable strategies for this state  
2 which will help Alabama to take the lead with the "States of  
3 Character" movement; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we reaffirm our 2000, 2005,  
6 and 2008 declarations of Alabama as a State of Character, and  
7 appeal to partners to collaborate when developing and  
8 supporting the implementation of character building  
9 strategies. We pledge to do all in our power to promote this  
10 Alabama, The State of Character resolution and character  
11 education in our schools, businesses, homes, churches, local  
12 governments, state agencies, and media and community groups,  
13 and we urge leaders of each of these areas to do likewise.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR61  
Senate 18-MAR-14  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 19-MAR-14

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By: Senator Orr