

1 SR101
2 177265-2
3 By Senator Reed
4 RFD: Rules
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8 CREATING THE SENATE TASK FORCE ON THE TRANSITION OF
9 ALABAMA UNEMPLOYED COAL MINERS.

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11 WHEREAS, Alabama coal communities have been hit
12 extremely hard by the loss of coal jobs and with our healthy
13 and willing workers fleeing for better horizons, leaving
14 behind only our growing older population; our communities are
15 in economic trouble because of a lack of coal production; and

16 WHEREAS, closed coal companies not only cost coal
17 miners their jobs, but also job-related industries on the
18 local level have been victimized by the loss of coal mining
19 jobs; similarly, small businesses, dependent on people working
20 directly and indirectly with the coal industry, are out of
21 business and the worst may be yet to come; with the lack of
22 taxes derived from coal and coal-related businesses, it will
23 be a matter of time before countless citizens of Alabama are
24 faced with severe economic hardship; and

25 WHEREAS, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC),
26 an agency of the federal government, has announced the
27 availability of additional funds for grants under the

1 Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic
2 Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which is an integrated,
3 multi-agency effort to align and invest federal economic and
4 workforce development resources in communities and regions
5 negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy; and

6 WHEREAS, in order for Alabama coal communities and
7 regions to diversify their local and regional economies
8 successfully, the POWER Program will establish priorities,
9 designating federal resources to projects and activities that
10 will produce multiple economic development outcomes, such as
11 promoting regional economic growth and diversification, new
12 job creation, reemployment opportunities for displaced coal
13 economy workers, including those that are specifically
14 identified under local and regional economic plans that have
15 been collaboratively produced by diverse local and regional
16 stakeholders; the Alabama Department of Economic Affairs is
17 the state coordinating agency tasked with facilitating the
18 federal ARC-POWER initiative in Alabama; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
20 ALABAMA, That, to expedite the Alabama ARC-POWER initiative,
21 there is created a Senate Task Force on the Transition of
22 Alabama Unemployed Coal Miners.

23 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist
24 of Senator Greg Reed, Senator Gerald Allen, and Senator
25 Priscilla Dunn.

26 (b) The task force shall organize local communities
27 and regional stakeholders to implement and maximize programs

1 and plans for transitioning unemployed workers to becoming
2 employed workers. The task force shall focus on the situation
3 in individual communities, coal regions, barriers affecting
4 employment, and assets to facilitate employment. The task
5 force shall develop a mission assessment, statement, and a
6 plan that outlines transitioning unemployed to employed
7 workers and that involves collaboration of local people, local
8 organizations, institutions, small businesses, industries, and
9 contributors.

10 (c) The primary objective of the task force is to
11 maximize projects that address economic diversification, job
12 creation, capital investment, new skills training, and
13 reemployment opportunities. The task force shall also review
14 local community needs and regional infrastructure for needed
15 design and engineering projects.

16 (d) Upon becoming operational, the task force shall
17 encourage other members of the Legislature to participate and
18 become involved with the task force.

19 (e) The long-term success of employing the displaced
20 coal workers will require the involvement of other Alabama
21 counties, cities, and ARC member state organizations, and,
22 with support from the leadership of other members of the
23 Legislature, the task force can be expanded to include
24 multiple communities within a county, multiple counties within
25 a region, multiple regions within a state, and multiple
26 regions in two or more states.

1 (f) The task force shall identify a point of contact
2 within the Legislature and frequently report to the
3 Legislature the progress that is made by the task force.