

1 SJR28
2 96443-3
3 By Senators Benefield, Smith, Barron, Beason, Bedford, Bishop,
4 Brooks, Butler, Coleman, Denton, Dixon, Erwin, Figures,
5 French, Glover, Griffith, Holley, Lindsey, Little (T), Little
6 (Z), Marsh, McClain, Means, Mitchell, Mitchem, Orr, Penn,
7 Pittman, Poole, Preuitt, Ross, Sanders, Singleton, Smitherman,
8 and Waggoner
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 19-FEB-08

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8 CREATING THE ALABAMA PERMANENT JOINT LEGISLATIVE
9 COMMITTEE ON WATER POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

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11 WHEREAS, the conservation and management of the
12 state's water resources are absolutely necessary to preserve
13 and protect our health, economic security, and recreational
14 use; and

15 WHEREAS, a reliable and ample water supply is of
16 great importance to all sectors of Alabama's economy; and

17 WHEREAS, long-term sustainability of the state's
18 water supply and efficient and effective distribution of water
19 resources are becoming increasingly important to sustain
20 Alabama's population growth and economic expansion; and

21 WHEREAS, the future water needs of the state also
22 present opportunities to plan regionally with other area water
23 partners and to establish safe and effective intrastate and
24 interstate water conservation strategies; and

25 WHEREAS, the use of existing technologies and the
26 development of new technologies and strategies regarding water

1 resource planning and coordination and strategies are
2 essential to meeting our current and future water needs; and

3 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that a
4 comprehensive state policy and an integrated interstate policy
5 are critical for planning and managing the water resources of
6 the state; now therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
8 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Permanent Joint
9 Legislative Committee on Water Policy and Management is
10 created for the purpose of developing the Alabama Water
11 Management Plan to recommend to the Governor and the
12 Legislature courses of action to address the state's long-term
13 and short-term water resource challenges.

14 The committee shall be composed of the following
15 members: The Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and
16 Forestry; the Chair of the House Commerce Committee; the Chair
17 of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and
18 Forestry; the Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
19 Transportation, and Utilities; the Chair of the Senate
20 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; five members of the
21 House appointed by the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives; two members of the Senate appointed by the
23 Lieutenant Governor; and two members of the Senate appointed
24 by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. To the extent
25 possible, members of the committee and any members of any
26 subcommittee created by the committee shall reflect the

1 racial, ethnic, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic
2 diversity of the state.

3 The Lieutenant Governor shall set the date of the
4 first meeting of the committee, at which a chair and vice
5 chair of the committee shall be elected by the members of the
6 committee. The committee shall thereafter meet at the call of
7 the chair or a majority of the members thereof, provided that
8 the committee shall meet at least once each four months. The
9 committee shall have a continuing existence and may meet, act,
10 and conduct its business at any place within this state during
11 the sessions of the Legislature, or any recess thereof, and in
12 the interim period between sessions.

13 The committee shall make a continuous study of the
14 state water supply and projected future needs and availability
15 of the state water supply and make recommendations for
16 legislation and initiatives that will create the necessary
17 institutional and regulatory changes to accomplish the overall
18 goals and objectives of the Alabama Water Management Plan in a
19 manner that benefits the state's needs and protects the
20 environment. The Alabama Water Management Plan shall be
21 designed to achieve the following goals and objectives:

22 (1) The expansion of the availability of water
23 needed to meet Alabama's current and future water needs
24 through:

25 a. Seeking assistance from appropriate federal
26 agencies in formulating strategies for water use and
27 conservation.

1 b. Seeking input from private sector representatives
2 regarding strategies for efficient water use management.

3 (2) The development of conservation programs
4 through:

5 a. Identification and promotion of proven water use
6 management and conservation technologies that improve water
7 availability throughout the year.

8 b. Identification and promotion of business and
9 residential water use reduction opportunities.

10 c. Increasing the usage of efficient water
11 management products and sources through the state procurement
12 process.

13 d. Incorporating water efficiency and conservation
14 into the design and operation of state facilities.

15 (3) Encouraging water management technologies and
16 producers of water-efficient products to locate their business
17 operations in Alabama.

18 (4) Adopting incentives for the conservation of and
19 prudent use of water resources in Alabama.

20 The Alabama Water Management Plan shall include the
21 following for each goal and objective:

22 (1) An identification of actions already in process
23 to effectively manage water usage in Alabama.

24 (2) A prioritized list of recommended administrative
25 actions to further the purposes of effective water management.

26 (3) Recommended legislative proposals.

1 (4) An identification of areas in which further
2 evaluation or research is recommended.

3 The committee shall submit its recommendations by
4 the 15th legislative day of the 2009 Regular Session and by
5 the fifth legislative day of each regular session thereafter.

6 The committee may create advisory subcommittees and
7 appoint members to such subcommittees.

8 Persons appointed to subcommittees shall include
9 members of the committee and representatives from governmental
10 agencies and the private sector with interest and expertise in
11 the objectives of the committee and any subcommittee formed by
12 the committee. The committee shall strive to limit the number
13 of subcommittees at any given time to three active
14 subcommittees, but may create more than three if the
15 circumstances require. The Commissioner of the Alabama
16 Department of Agriculture and Industries, or his or her
17 designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation
18 and Natural Resources, or his or her designee; the Division
19 Chief of the Office of Water Resources of the Alabama
20 Department of Economic and Community Affairs, or his or her
21 designee; the State Geologist or his or her designee; and the
22 Director of the Department of Environmental Management or his
23 or her designee may be a member of any advisory subcommittee
24 created. Each advisory subcommittee shall be co-chaired by a
25 member of the committee and a member of either the private
26 sector or the public sector having knowledge and expertise in
27 the area of study assigned to the subcommittee. Co-chairs of

1 the subcommittees shall be appointed by the members of the
2 committee.

3 The Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House
4 of Representatives, and the advisory subcommittees authorized
5 herein shall provide any assistance as may be necessary at the
6 committee's request. Each legislative member of the committee
7 and each legislative member of any subcommittee created by the
8 committee shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative
9 compensation, his or her per diem, and travel expenses for
10 each day he or she attends a meeting of the committee or a
11 subcommittee, which shall be paid out of any funds
12 appropriated for the use of the Legislature, upon warrants
13 drawn by the state Comptroller, upon requisitions signed by
14 the committee's chair; provided, however, members shall not
15 receive additional legislative compensation or per diem for a
16 regular or special session meeting day or committee meeting
17 day, or if a member is being paid any other payments on the
18 same dates for attendance on other state business.

19 Non-legislative members may be reimbursed for meetings of any
20 subcommittee created pursuant to this act according to the
21 policy and procedures of the respective employers or public
22 authorities of such members. Annual expenses and compensation
23 of the committee shall not exceed the amount of \$10,000.