HJR185

185724-4

By Representative Williams (JD)

RFD: Rules

First Read: 13-FEB-18
ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION.

WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to the protection and well-being of all citizens of this state and particularly the children of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, learning to use electronic communication devices and having Internet access is essential for the education of the children of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that electronic communications and the Internet frequently contain communications and information that are inappropriate for children and may be used by others in a patently offensive way, lacking literary, artistic, political, scientific, or educational value and may entice unsuspecting children into activities that are potentially dangerous; and

WHEREAS, electronic communications and the Internet may be used to lure children into illegal activities such as human trafficking and prostitution; and
WHEREAS, solutions to enhance the safety of the children in this state using electronic communications and the Internet would benefit children and the general public, and may reduce crimes in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that areas of risk be identified in order to advance proven and innovative technologies and procedures to promote the safety and protection of the children of Alabama who use electronic communications and the Internet; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is created the Alabama Commission on Child Protection to conduct a review of current state laws, rules, and procedures regarding the protection of children using electronic communications and the Internet, and recommend improvements, including innovative technology, improved methods to filter what is available to children on the Internet, methods to monitor and track electronic communications that may be harmful to children, and other measures to promote and enhance child protection and safety in this state.

(a) Membership of the Alabama Commission on Child Protection shall be comprised of the following:

(1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or his or her designee.

(2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his or her designee.
(3) The Director of the Alabama Department of Human Resources, or his or her designee.

(4) A pediatrician appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(5) A child psychologist appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(6) The Director of the Alabama Public Health Department, or his or her designee.

(7) One member representing education appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(8) One member representing education appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(9) The Director of the Department of Mental Health, or his or her designee.

(10) One member representing education appointed by the Governor.

(11) The Attorney General of Alabama, or his or her designee.

(12) The Executive Director of the Office of Prosecution Services, or his or her designee.

(13) One member representing Internet Service Providers appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(14) One member representing mobile phone manufacturing appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
(15) One member of an organization associated with family health and well-being appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(16) One member with an organization focused on civil liberties, including freedom of speech, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure membership of the Alabama Commission on Child Protection is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(c) The commission shall have the following duties:

(1) Perform a complete and comprehensive review and assessment of current state laws and rules regarding child protection as it pertains to the use of the Internet and electronic communication devices, child pornography, solicitation for prostitution, human trafficking, and the reproduction and publication of obscene material.

(2) Recommend improvements for the safety of children who use the Internet and electronic communication devices.

(3) Recommend legislation to implement methods to improve the safety of children using the Internet and electronic communication devices.

(d)(1) Appointments to the commission shall be made within 30 days after the effective date of this act.
(2) The commission shall hold its first meeting no later than August 1, 2018, with the date, time, and location of the meeting designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(3) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a chair, vice chair, and other officers as determined by the commission, and shall set dates, times, and locations of subsequent meetings.

(e) The House of Representatives and the Senate shall provide the necessary staff and support to the commission to perform its duties.

(f) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses to attend meetings of the commission according to the policies and procedures of their respective appointing authority.

(g) The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations in writing to the Legislature no later than the fifth Legislative day of the 2019 Regular Session, at which time the commission shall be dissolved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all state agencies are urged to cooperate fully with the commission in accomplishing the objectives of the commission, and that a copy of this resolution be presented to the appointing authorities set out above so that our sincere and continuing interest in this matter is known.