

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE



Anna Beth Frazier
Lt. Governor



Hudson Campbell
GOVERNOR



Austin Oh
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



Julia Daigle
SENATE PRO-TEMP



Jeremiah Treece
CHIEF JUSTICE



Isabella Shin
HOUSE PRO-TEMP



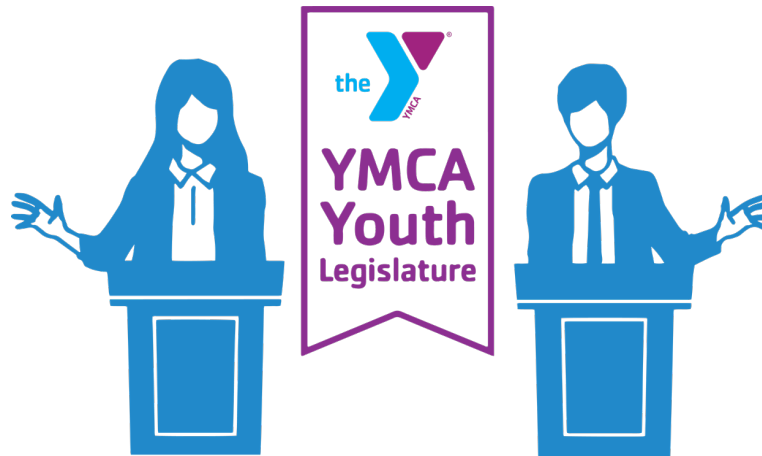
Jackson Short
SENATE FLOOR LEADER



Michael Allen
HOUSE FLOOR LEADER



Gabby Camargo
Secretary of State



Anna Huffstetler
FIRST YEAR PO

75TH ANNUAL SESSION
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024
ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN
GOVERNMENT

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

YOUTH GOVERNOR HUDSON CAMPBELL

SENATE

Lt. Governor — Anna Beth Frazier
Pro-Temp — Julia Daigle
Floor Leader — Jackson Short
Asst. Floor Leader — Cara Brooks
Secretary — Khandro Butler
Asst. Secretary — Lily Johnson
Chaplain — Ava Donaldson Senate
Sgt. At Arms — Abigail Laseter

HOUSE

Speaker — Austin Oh
Pro-Temp — Isabella Shin
Floor Leader — Michael Allen
Asst. Floor Leader — Maksim Presnell
Clerk — Lulu Espy
Asst. Clerk — Angeline Welsh
Chaplain — Emily Ingram
Sgt. At Arms — Henry Short

FIRST YEAR

Presiding Officer — Anna Huffstetler
Pro-Temp — Sadie Brewer
Floor Leader — An Wilkes Cavanaugh
Asst. Floor Leader — Faith Mahone
Clerk — Isabella Segura
Chaplain — Anna Kate Wells

SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice — Jeremiah Treece
Justice — Katelyn Morgan
Justice — Emma Wolfe
Justice — Hatcher Potter
Justice — Jakeria Clopton
Justice — Michael Phan
Justice — Alex Ruona
Justice — Jacob Stallworth
Justice — Baileigh Whiddon
Justice — Madeline Morgan
Justice — Aubree Sipsy
Attorney General — Elaine Vo

SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State — Gabby Camargo
Asst. Secretary of State — Olivia Landess

LOBBYISTS

Head Lobbyist — Wells Finch

75TH ANNUAL SESSION
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR

Hudson Campbell
GOVERNOR



STATE OFFICE
PO BOX 2336
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36102

STATE OF ALABAMA

February 23, 2024

Dear Delegates,

Thank you so much for coming this weekend and welcome to this year's Youth Legislature. I cannot express how happy and excited I am for this weekend. Thank you for being a part of the growth of this program. Whether you are a new delegate from a new delegation or a seasoned CONA veteran, thank you for participating. Delegates, officers, Y staffers, college staffers, and advisors are crucial for this unique learning experience.

Before I got involved with ALYIG and Youth Leg, I loved to argue. By my freshman year, the only "debates" I had or participated in were screaming matches where the only results were hurt feelings and no compromise. Then I was introduced to Youth Leg and learned about civil discourse. Even through our virtual session, I could see the importance of debating someone's politics and not the person. It was so much more enjoyable and productive when delegates were respectful and understanding. I learned that you can disagree with a person's position but still see them as a friend. That is the community of ALYIG.

Over the years, I have leaned into this community. I have seen it grow more and more as more students share their ideas and support one another. But this loving community is fragile. It can only survive and keep growing if we continue to be civil and supportive too. That being said, as we go through this weekend of fun and debate, please lean in, raise your placard, make a friend, and get involved. Trust me, you will not regret it.

It is one of my greatest pleasures to serve as your Youth Governor. I look forward, to seeing your happy faces and hearing your confident voices.

Great Thanks,

Hudson Campbell
Alabama Youth Governor

Hudson Campbell
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

2024 GOVERNOR’S CABINET AND STAFF

Attorney General.....Elaine Vo
Chief of StaffJosiah Toone
Legal AdvisorLibby Baty

Alcohol Beverage ControlAmolika Mishra
Department of Early Childhood Education.....Holland Warren
Department of Commerce.....Lucas Rigby
Department of Conservation and Natural ResourcesWilliam Tabb
Department of Corrections.....Mary Frances Itsede
Department of Economic and Community AffairsBreonna Crumb
Department of Finance..... Suhani Joshi
Department of Human ResourcesAnna Kate Bailey
Department of Insurance Patton Hahn
Department of LaborEleanor Couch
Department of Mental Health.....Madhumita Ravikumar
Department of Senior Services..... Sam Eagan
Emergency Management Agency Brodie Poole
Law Enforcement Agency Sharaia Canady
Medicaid Agency Abby Garamany
Office on Minority AffairsBethany Yin
Office of Pardons and Paroles..... Robert Gaines

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

February 23, 2024

Greetings:

I would like to welcome you to the 75th Session of the Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature held on Friday, February 23– Sunday, February 25, 2024 in Montgomery, Alabama.

High school students from across our great state will attend the 75th Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature. These students represent Alabama's best and brightest young minds.

I challenge each of you to develop your leadership skills as you learn more about Alabama State Government. I also encourage you to consider what it means to be a leader and a good citizen. You have made the decision to better yourself and to serve as role models for your peers by participating in the 75th Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature.

Upon completion of the event, many of you will return to your homes. I wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

Again, welcome to the 75th Session of the Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "I".

Kay Ivey
Governor

KI/pb/aw



WILL AINSWORTH
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

Dear Future Leader:

I want to personally welcome you to the 75th session of the Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature.

State government has a tremendous impact on the daily lives of each and every one of us. I commend you for your interest in learning more about the legislative process. I also want to thank you for being a leader in your respective school and community.

Over the next few days you will spend time sitting in the chairs of men and women who lead our state. I encourage you to consider what it means to be a leader and the importance of being involved in every level of government.

It is my hope that you have an educational experience and gain some valuable insight into the legislative process during your time serving in this Legislature.

I am proud to serve as your Lieutenant Governor and wish you well during your time in our state capitol.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Will Ainsworth", written in a cursive style.

Will Ainsworth
Lieutenant Governor



STATE OF ALABAMA

NATHANIEL LEDBETTER
SPEAKER of the HOUSE

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

February 2, 2024

Dear Youth Legislature Members:

Congratulations on your selection to participate in the 75th session of the Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature! What an honor it is to have you here in Montgomery to learn about the political and legislative process.

The participants of your class are the next generation of leaders who will someday operate our state's government. For this reason, it is highly critical that you learn as much as you can now so that you can take that knowledge and create a brighter future for your fellow Alabamians.

While you are here in our state's capital city, be sure to take every advantage of this time to form friendships with your fellow youth legislators, listen carefully during each informational session and continue to hone your leadership abilities.

Your selection for this great occasion is proof that you already have what it takes to be true public servants. I am honored to know that the future of the great state of Alabama rests in your hands.

Best of luck with your endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel Ledbetter", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter
Alabama House of Representatives

ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
600 DEXTER AVENUE
SUITE S-105
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130



(334) 242-7200
WWW.SOS.ALABAMA.GOV
WES.ALLEN@SOS.ALABAMA.GOV

WES ALLEN
SECRETARY OF STATE

Dear YMCA Youth Legislature Participant:

As Alabama's Secretary of State, it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the annual session of the Alabama Youth Legislature, and our historic Capital City.

Throughout your time at this event, I encourage you to listen well, be engaged, get out of your comfort zone, and most importantly, learn. Let your experience in the Alabama State House and your time on Goat Hill, the hub of our state Government, motivate you to serve the state of Alabama and your nation, maybe even as an elected official. Build relationships with the people you meet at the Alabama Youth Legislature, as those that are with you in this program are likely to cross paths with you again throughout your life.

As you participate in your legislative exercises, I hope you approach it with the level of seriousness, honesty, and work ethic that such a process warrants. The chamber in which you will serve as Youth Legislators is the same chamber in which men and women from across the State of Alabama come together to debate proposed legislation and to vote on bills that impact the lives of each and every Alabama citizen. History has been shaped at the podiums from which you will speak and at the desks at which you will sit. Do not let that fact slip by you unnoticed.

I hope you use this opportunity to work hard, champion policies that protect and defend the constitutional rights of your fellow citizens. These are all things that I strive to do each day as I serve the people of Alabama as the state's 54th Secretary of State.

On behalf of everyone who serves you and all of the people of Alabama in the Office of the Alabama Secretary of State, I wish the best as you embark on your 2024 Youth Legislative experience and in all your future endeavors. I feel certain that your experience will be a valuable and inspiring one. My staff and I are ready and willing to serve you in any way that may be helpful. pful.

Sincerely,

Wes Allen
Secretary of State



**STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**STEVE MARSHALL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**501 WASHINGTON AVENUE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130
(334) 242-7300
ALABAMAAG.GOV**

February 1, 2024

Dear Youth Legislators:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 75th session of the Alabama Youth Legislature. I commend you for your willingness to spend your time learning how state government operates, as well as the concerted effort you will put into drafting legislation during this session.

There is no higher honor than public service. As you enter the Alabama State House, remember the many that have come before you to make our state and country a better place. It is vital to the future of our democracy for you to be engaged and actively involved in the political process. By experiencing the legislative process and gaining a better understanding of parliamentary procedure you can better serve your state no matter what vocation you may enter as an adult. The more citizens understand how our government works the more we can hold our elected officials to a higher standard.

As your Attorney General, I provide legal representation for the State of Alabama, its officers, departments, and agencies. It is also my duty to enforce the laws passed by the state legislature, as well as to initiate both civil and criminal court action in order to protect the state's interests. It is truly an honor to serve as Attorney General for the great State of Alabama.

Again, I commend you for your involvement in The Alabama Youth Legislature and your passion for public service. It is my hope that your education is enriched by your experience in Montgomery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Marshall".

**Steve Marshall
Attorney General**

2023 BEST BILLS

House Best Bill

HB023 Requiring High School Students to Take a Financial Literary Class – Lily Johnson – Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Senate Best Bill

SB048 – Medicaid Expansion Amendment - Rebecca Berry- Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

First-Year Best Bill

FYB19 – Establishing of Uniforms in Public Schools Act – Sophie Hicks- Birmingham- Mountain Brook

- SB05 – Repeal of Money Bail (Connor Jenkins)
- SB32 – Mental Health Matters (Annabelle King)
- SB42 – Educational Refuge for Alabama's Refugees (Hannah Broders)
- SB55 – The Healthy Food Access for All Alabamians Act (Luke Pappalardo)
- SB60 – Punishing the Problem (CJ Johnson, Lydia Burn)
- HB25 – All Green Card Holders Who are Taxpayers allowed to vote in state elections (Amolika Mishra)
- HB42 – Abusers Don't Care Who You Are (Lilia Sokol)
- HB51 – Protect the Coosa (Carys Collins)
- HB61 – GUNS! (Libby Baty)
- FY08 – Silenced by Time (Jaja Gancayco)
- FY27 – No More Vroom Vroom (Anna Beth Frazier)
- FY31 – The Dangers of Sex Offenders (Lily Landers)
- FY35 – Organ Donation Takes Guts (Ansley Gilbert)
- FY39 – Bunnies over Beauty (Sadie Brewer)
- FY43 – Hangry for Tax Relief (Bella Angelone)
- FY50 – Perfect Attendance is Not Perfect Mental Health (Tenley White, Julie Nguyen)
- FY62 – Gun Permissions in Alabama (Liana Jayasena)
- FY67 – The North Birmingham Clena Air Act (Mekhiah Canady)
- FY81 – Designate Juneteenth as a State Holiday (Lulu Espy, Frances Fitzpatrick)
- FY88 – Watchful Workers (Kendall Grahn)
- FY93 – Child Sex Offenders Act 2023 (Kate Guven)
- FY103 – Legalization of Abortion (Bethany Yin)
- FY104 – A bill to fund the care of indigent patients in Alabama hospitals (Abby Garmany)

FORMER YOUTH GOVERNORS & LT. GOVERNORS

Youth Governors			Lt. Governors	
1950	Jack Noble	Montgomery	Roy Palmer	Tuscaloosa
1951	Allen Mikul	Birmingham	Charles Hill	Huntsville
1952	Elliott Wilder	Birmingham	Otis Coston	Bessemer
1953	John Ingle	Montgomery	Edward Shope	Columbus
1954	Knowling Keener	Birmingham	Charles Kelso	Montgomery
1955	Larry Seal	Bessemer	Jerry Rogers	Tuscaloosa
1956	Rick Callahan	Tuscaloosa	Roy Nolen	Montgomery
1957	Gerald Dagenhardt	Anniston	Julian Butler	Birmingham
1958	John Davies	Montgomery	Ernest Potter	Anniston
1959	Ham Newson	Montgomery	Merral Curtis	Pensacola
1960	Bob Hill	Montgomery	Erwin Lischike	Montgomery
1961	David Lull	Selma	John Lampkin	Birmingham
1962	John McKinney	Talladega	Mike Nipper	Gadsden
1963	Bill Shamblin	Tuscaloosa	Bob Watson	Montgomery
1964	Steve Walker	Montgomery	Wilson Windham	Montgomery
1965	Neal Conner	Decatur	Lloyd Wagner	Tuscaloosa
1966	Ron Davenport	Montgomery	Mike Copeland	Anniston
1967	Bill Dixon	Fairfax	John Gylar	Anniston
1968	Roger Lee	Anniston	Marion Walker	Tuscaloosa
1969	Jack Carr	Anniston	Marty Shamblin	Tuscaloosa
1970	Clinton Smith	Montgomery	Larry Childs	Tuscaloosa
1971	Robert Downing	Anniston	Julian Hart	Montgomery
1972	Bill Donaldson	Montgomery	Pam Goodson	Tuscaloosa
1973	Van Hart	Montgomery	Steve Lybrand	Anniston
1974	Vaughn Stewart	Anniston	Margie Northington	Prattville
1975	Andy Bolt	Anniston	Louis Colley	Prattville
1976	Sharwon Bowen	Prattville	John Swindle	Prattville
1977	Fred Lybrand	Anniston	Lamar Higgins	Prattville
1978	Gene Henderson	Opelika	Chip Wampold	Montgomery
1979	David Christian	Anniston	John Graham	Florence
1980	Joey James	Florence	Sam Downing	Anniston
1981	Gary McLean	Huntsville	James Busby	Birmingham
1982	Candice Hemphill	Huntsville	Jay Stern	Opelika
1983	Rad Cox	Florence	John James	Anniston
1984	Jody Boyd	Huntsville	Tracy Beaver	Florence
1985	Todd Burdine	Florence	Frances Lewis	Montgomery
1986	Roger Spain	Montgomery	David Allen	Anniston
1987	Stacey Whitestone	Dothan	Brooke Thorington	Montgomery
1988	Coke Williams, Jr.	Anniston	Jimmy Hall	Montgomery
1989	Jason Godin	Montgomery	Porter Bannister	Anniston
1990	Allison Inscoe	Montgomery	Courtney Ellis	Auburn
1991	Ellery Cook	Montgomery	Sam Reaves	Gadsden
1992	Nathan Ballard	Auburn	Bo Harmon	Anniston
1993	Drew Wyatt	Ozark	Carmen Norris	Auburn
1994	Blake Hale	Wetumpka	Teford Taylor	Prattville
1995	Turner Inscoe	Montgomery	Greg Renden	Mobile
1996	Annie Nguyen	Mobile	Jimmy D'Andrea	Auburn
1997	Allison Gwin	Montgomery	Nancy Boyd	Montgomery

FORMER YOUTH GOVERNORS & LT. GOVERNORS

Youth Governors			Lt. Governors	
1998	Lu Han	Auburn	John David Rauch	Anniston
1999	Jim Crook	Montgomery	Michael Park	Auburn
2000	Kenya Lee	Auburn	Meredith May	Pike County
2001	Kimmie Lipscomb	Auburn	Mary Hunter Rouse	Mobile
2002	Emily Aviki	Auburn	Lee Johnsey	Birmingham
2003	Kasdin Miller	Montgomery	Mark Stern	Montgomery
2004	Richard Friedman	Mobile	Kyle Shirley	Prattville
2005	William Bloom	Montgomery	Torrie Miller	Montgomery
2006	Forrest McConnell	Montgomery	Matthew May	Birmingham
2007	Charlie Strickland	Enterprise	Shannon McNeal	Montgomery
2008	Lillian Wilson	Montgomery	Katie Bell	Montgomery
2009	Roscoe Anderson	Montgomery	Bo Morris	Anniston
2010	Jonathan Quisenberry	Enterprise	D'Jara Britton	Montgomery
2011	Brannen McMahan	Montgomery	Logan Powell	Montgomery
2012	Jackson Britton	Montgomery	Vince Mitchell	Mobile
2013	Chad DuBois	Montgomery	Zijie Yin	Mountain Brook
2014	Noah Crawford	Birmingham	Hannah Mouyal	Mountain Brook
2015	Cassie Sadie	Montgomery	Emily Stone	Montgomery
2016	Noah McNelley	Montgomery	William S. Chandler	Montgomery
2017	Ford Cleveland	Montgomery	Ellen Park	Montgomery
2018	Claudia Hubbard	Montgomery	Anne Mitchell Welch	Mountain Brook
2019	Jared Schaffer	Hoover	Carter Chandler	Montgomery
2020	Pavel Shirley	Mountain Brook	Ben Harris	Mountain Brook
2020	Ryan Barranco	Montgomery	Josh Phillips	Hoover
2022	Nathaniel Bass	Birmingham	Grace Norman	Hoover
2023	Camila Lopez	Hoover	Sarah Dewees	Birmingham

FORMER SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE

Year	Name	City	Year	Name	City
1949	Bill Bell	Selma	1999	Cory Sellers	Auburn
1950	Donald Bearden	Birmingham	2000	Charlotte Sonn	Auburn
1951	Fletcher Stuart	Montgomery	2001	Christopher Friedman	Mobile
1952	Robert Earl Ellis	Tuscaloosa	2002	Judith Ann Montiel	Montgomery
1953	Charles Kelso	Montgomery	2003	Hunter Gilpin	Montgomery
1954	Quinsby McCaskill	Birmingham	2004	R.B. Walker	Montgomery
1955	David Ellwanger	Selma	2005	Jay Owen	Montgomery
1956	Wayne Laudermilch	Anniston	2006	Pep Pfluke	Enterprise
1957	Julie Griffen	Columbus	2007	Melinda Gooch	Enterprise
1958	Richard Gill	Montgomery	2008	Thompson Foy	Enterprise
1959	Wayne Duren	Birmingham	2009	Andrew McConnell	Montgomery
1960	Hank Black	Tuscaloosa	2010	Amanda Pfluke	Enterprise
1961	Mike Oliver	Selma	2011	Whitney Lott	Montgomery
1962	George Gibbons	Anniston	2012	David Kinstley	Birmingham
1963	Chuck Muckenfu	Montgomery	2013	Jeff Rogers	Birmingham
1964	Holly Pittman	Montgomery	2014	Amelia Putnam	Birmingham
1965	Fred Suggs	Montgomery	2015	Matt Tindal	Birmingham
1966	Vance Davidson	Decatur	2016	Henry Hamlett	Montgomery
1967	Tom Downing	Anniston	2017	Emma Taylor	Birmingham
1968	Tommy Wells	Gadsden	2018	Lockett Robinson	Mobile
1969	Tom Parker	Montgomery	2019	Hannah Hale	Montgomery
1970	Tommy Barnett	Tuscaloosa	2020	Lindsey Tadlock	Hoover
1971	Tim Thompson	Montgomery	2020	Chloe Kinderman	Birmingham
1972	Wayne Chambers	Anniston	2022	Selma Maric	Hoover
1973	Paul Hinton	Gadsden	2023	Rylen Dempsey	Birmingham
1974	Beegee Brown	Montgomery			
1975	Gail Campbell	Montgomery			
1976	Gibson Coleman	Anniston			
1977	Ken Mullinax	Anniston			
1978	Anna Castro	Montgomery			
1979	Cassandra Dorsey	Opelika			
1980	Teresa Cox	Killen			
1981	Traci Taylor	Florence			
1982	Mary Ellen Coughlin	Montgomery			
1983	Chrissie Brantley	Montgomery			
1984	Jessica Harris	Anniston			
1985	Carolyn Phillips	Montgomery			
1986	Caroline McDonald	Montgomery			
1987	Judith Fulcher	Huntsville			
1988	Gordon Bailey	Anniston			
1989	Lyn Grant	Montgomery			
1990	Clark Bailey	Anniston			
1991	Katherine Pike	Dothan			
1992	Winston Tucker	Elmore			
1993	Katie Strong	Montgomery			
1994	Melissa Jakeman	Auburn			
1995	Kevin Cumbus	Montgomery			
1996	Sequon Herring	Montgomery			
1997	Moses Kim	Enterprise			
1998	Tripp Quina	Mobile			

FORMER PRESIDING OFFICERS & OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS

First Year Program

Presiding Officers			Outstanding	Participants
Year	Name	City	Name	City
1987	Jason Saliba	Dothan	Stephanie Brunnell	Huntsville
			Jennifer Beckman	Huntsville
			Will McQueen	Montgomery
			Peter Vannice	Montgomery
1988	Clark Bailey	Anniston	Ginger Shaw	Millbrook
			Laurie Head	Millbrook
1989	Don Hinton	Dothan	Suzanne Rosen	
			Mary Pat Lawrence	Anniston
1990	Marvin King	Birmingham	Rebecca Schmidt	Auburn
			Amy Wilson	
1991	Drew Wyatt	Ozark	Christy Cobb	Huntsville
			Carrie Alexander	Huntsville
1992	Emily Hawk	Gadsden	Elizabeth Hiels	Mobile
1993	Tanisha Corino	Auburn	Stella McGehee	Anniston
1994	Mike Addison	Wetumpka	William Gwinn	Auburn
1995	Andy Head	Montgomery	Jason McDonnell	Enterprise
1996	Holly Skievaski	Auburn	Summer Brown	Ozark
			Holly Heibolt	Ozark
1997	Emi Patterson	Auburn	Mary Hunter Rouse	Mobile
			Pettus Randall	Tuscaloosa
1998	Meryl Jones	Ozark	Sarah Martino	Mobile
1999	Asim Ali	Auburn	John Hyrhorchuk	Montgomery
2000	Todd Ledet	Montgomery	Kasdin Miller	Montgomery
2001	Mark Stern	Montgomery	Tyler Dillard	Dothan
2002	Frazier Montiel	Montgomery	Steve Reneau	Montgomery
2003	Shivani Nadarajah	Auburn	Ben Harmon	Birmingham
2004	Leah Blake	Auburn	Vaughn Stewart	Calhoun County
2005	Charlie Strickland	Enterprise	Angel King	Montgomery
2006	Melinda Gooch	Enterprise	Paul Allen	Montgomery
2007	Paul Allen	Montgomery	Sam Hobbs	Montgomery
2008	Jonathan Quisenberry	Enterprise	Daniel Connors	Enterprise
2009	Sarah Strickland	Enterprise	Tyler Brady	Anniston
2010	Whitney Lott	Montgomery	Zijie Yin	Mountain Brook
2011	Chad DuBois	Montgomery	Judd Powell	Montgomery
2012	Jeff Rogers	Birmingham	Bea Tisher	Mobile
2013	Amelia Putnam	Birmingham	Ty Deemer	Montgomery
2014	Noah McNelley	Montgomery	Cameron Giordano	Birmingham
2015	Brian Anderson	Montgomery	Addison Smith	Mobile
2016	Claudia Hubbard	Montgomery	Carter Chandler	Montgomery
2017	Katie McIntyre	Montgomery	Chloe Kinderman	Mountain Brook
2018	Hannah Hale	Montgomery	Ryan Barranco	Montgomery
2019	Perry Courtney	Mobile	Austin King	Smiths Station
2020	Jeffrey Ford	Montgomery	Jackson Perkins	Mountain Brook
2022	Kareena Singh	Montgomery	Velinda Dioncio Perez	Montgomery
2023	Anna Beth Frazier	Hoover	Jeremiah Treece	Montgomery

Former Jere Hardy Award Winners For Outstanding Statesmanship

House of Representatives

1949	George Irons	Birmingham
1950	Robert Clayton	Birmingham
1951	George Randle	Birmingham
1952	Allen Gunn	Montgomery
1953	Bryant Maulk	Montgomery
1954	Steve Moreno	Birmingham
1955	Bobby Wood	Tuscaloosa
1956	Gerald Dagenhardt	Anniston
1957	Gene Rutledge	Anniston
1958	Dee Merrill	Anniston
1959	John Lampkin	Birmingham
1960	Robert Roberts	Holt
1961	Johnny McKinney	Talladega
1962	Lonnie Schultz	Birmingham
1963	Kirk Follo	Gadsden
1964	Joe Williams	Selma
1965	Diana Hicks	Montgomery
1966	Grady Zeanah	Tuscaloosa
1967	Tom Downing	Anniston
1968	Joe Perkins	Tuscaloosa
1969	Lynn Utley	Tuscaloosa
1970	Sam Floyd	Alex City
1971	Mark Perkins	Tuscaloosa
1972	Mike Robinson	Gadsden
1973	Heidi Barmetler	Montgomery
1974	Andy Bolt	Anniston
1975	Stephanie Wolfe	Montgomery
1976	Nancy Mims	Prattville
1977	Gene Henderson	Opelika
1978	Margaret Purcell	Prattville
1979	Susan Kirkpatrick	Montgomery
1980	Margaret Purcell	Marbury
1981	Candice Hemphill	Huntsville
1982	Alan Parker	Ozark
1983	Todd Burdine	Florence
1984	Brandon James	Auburn
1985	Gordan Bailey, III	Anniston
1986	Gordan Bailey, III	Anniston
1987	Todd Barksdale	Anniston
1988	Valerie Young	Huntsville
1989	Bradley Burns	Ozark
1990	Jessica Burney	Auburn
1991	Leah Tesney	Mobile
1992	Josh Warren	Gadsden
1993	Robert F. Cook	Birmingham-Berry
1994	Alida Hines	Mobile
1995	Al Bennett	Auburn
1996	Homer Carlisle	Auburn
1997	Amanda Jarrell	Pike County
1998	Kelli Burns	Montgomery
1999	Cory Sellers	Auburn
2000	Krysha Gregorowicz	Montgomery

Senate

Marilyn Brittain	Anniston
Hal Weatherby	Montgomery
Wright Moulton	Pensacola
Ann Richardson	Tuscaloosa
Billy Jordan	Columbus
Ricki Ferrari	Mobile
Jimbo Rogers	Selma
Bernard Harwood	Montgomery
Bob Hart	Pensacola
Jimmy Vickery	Montgomery
Jack Wilson	Birmingham
Wesley Brock	Gadsden
Earl Campbell	Montgomery
Glen Seaberry	Montgomery
Marbury Rainer	Selma
Jack Burwell	Huntsville
David Ellis	Huntsville
Vaughn Russell	Selma
Larry Childs	Tuscaloosa
Barry Mullins	Tuscaloosa
Kin Hodge	Tuscaloosa
Preston Bolt	Anniston
Marjorie Roberts	Florence
Robbins Taylor	Montgomery
Sharon Bowen	Prattville
Jim Priester	Florence
Steve Christian	Anniston
Becky Butler	NW Florida
Kurt Garrett	Ozark
Gary McLean	Huntsville
James Busby	Birmingham
Linda Lott	Florence
Darron Mayo	Gadsden
Todd Burdine	Florence
John Augstine	Florence
Coke Williams, Jr.	Anniston
Web Drake	Dothan
Traci Vaughn	Montgomery
Will McQueen	Montgomery
Courtney Ellis	Auburn
Bo Harmon	Anniston
Amy Russell	Montgomery
Sarah Martin	Montgomery
Jacob Piggot	Tuscaloosa
Kevin Cumbus	Montgomery
Lu Han	Auburn
Juli Verma	Auburn
Mary Kristin Galanos	Mobile
Shannon Simpson	Mobile
Shiva Sankar	Auburn

FORMER JERE HARDY AWARD WINNERS **For Outstanding Statesmanship**

House of Representatives			Senate	
2001	Judith Ann Montiel	Montgomery	Chris Price	Pelham
2002	Sarah Bell	Montgomery	Buddy Handey	Montgomery
2003	Peter Susman	Mobile-St. Paul's	Mark Stern	Montgomery
2004	Peter Susman	Mobile-St. Paul's	Erica Newland	Auburn
2005	Ashton Seip	Montgomery	James Randolph	Anniston Area
2006	Beth Brantley	Montgomery	Angel King	Montgomery
2007	Cynthia Weber	Montgomery	Marisa Younanian	Enterprise
2008	Roscoe Anderson	Montgomery	Chase Childs	Enterprise
2009	Austin Barranco	Montgomery	Amelia Brock	Auburn
2010	Will Clayton	Birmingham	Patrick Donnan	Auburn
2011	Pranav Bethala	UMS Wright	Benjamin Hubbard	Huntsville
2012	Zijie Yin	Birmingham	Pierce Godwin	Montgomery
2013	Lewis Fitzpatrick	Birmingham	Mary Catherine Connors	Enterprise
2014	Christina McLaughlin	Birmingham	Scheherbano Rafay	Auburn
2015	Michelle Newman	Birmingham	Christina McLaughlin	Hoover
2016	Joey Compton	Birmingham	Steven Higgins	Montgomery
2017	Emma Taylor	Birmingham	Grace Friedman	Hoover
2018	Pavel Shirley	Birmingham	Olivia Pride	Hoover
2019	Daniel Carmichael	Birmingham	Brett Bonikowski	Montgomery
2020	Rylen Dempsey	Birmingham		
2022	Kylan Benson	Birmingham	Rhea Rastogi	Montgomery
2023	Jackson Short	Birmingham	Cleo Washington	Montgomery

FORMER BETTY CARR AWARD WINNERS

1976	Marti Pearson	Huntsville	1995	Jaynie Randall	Tuscaloosa
1978	Dodie Coleman	Anniston	2000	Rebecca Beers	Selma
1979	Brad Trammell	Opelika	2001	Matt Deavers	Enterprise
1980	Anne Mims	Prattville	2002	Cedrick Andrews	Enterprise
1981	Anne Mims	Prattville	2003	Hunter Gilpin	Montgomery
1982	Peter Crofton	Opelika	2004	Dan Ventress	Enterprise
1983	Jessica Harris	Anniston		Byron Strickland	Enterprise
1984	Carolyn Phillips	Montgomery	2005	Adam Carlisle	Birmingham
1985	Greg Mays	Florence	2006	James Randolph	Anniston
1986	Coke Williams, Jr.	Anniston	2007	Cynthia Weber	Montgomery
1987	Brooke Thorington	Montgomery	2008	Bo Morris	Anniston
1988	Martha Albritton	Florence	2009	Kendall Watson	Montgomery
1989	Charlotte Weatherly	Anniston	2010	D'Jara Britton	Montgomery
1990	Jay Price	Huntsville	2011	Brett Johnshon	Gadsden
1991	Clint Hyde	Evergreen	2012	Dakin Hill	Montgomery
1992	Emily Hawk	Gadsden	2013	Justin Gallagher	Montgomery
1993	Suzanne Rosen	Anniston		Zijie Yin	Birmingham
	Jason Hall	Mobile	2014	Ben Jackson	Birmingham
1994	Kelly Smith	Mobile	2015	Bea Tisher	Mobile
1996	Stella McGehee	Anniston	2016	Bennett McGehee	Mobile
1997	Moses Kim	Auburn	2017	Lydia Page Moffett	Mobile
1998	Beth Lundell	Auburn	2018	Addison Smith	Mobile
1999	Kelli Carpenter	Anniston	2019	Trinity Hunter	Montgomery
			2020	Margaret Chandler	Montgomery
			2022	Selma Maric	Birmingham
			2023	Anna Dickey	Montgomery

FORMER BILL BARRINGER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1987	Judith Fulcher	Huntsville	2004	Timothy Sinnott	Auburn
1988	Martha Albritton	Florence	2005	Torrie Miller	Montgomery
1989	Missy Alford	Montgomery	2006	Ben Burch	Birmingham
1990	Jay Price	Huntsville	2007	Corey Decker	Dothan
1991	Terri Nevitt	Birmingham	2008	Faith Dorn	Anniston
1992	Winston Tucker	Elmore	2009	Daniel Connors	Enterprise
1993	Carmen Norris	Auburn	2010	Chris Stokes	Birmingham
1994	Elizabeth Perry	Auburn	2011	Amber Voss	Edgewood
1995	Sammy Adams	Troy	2012	Taylor Lollar	Montgomery
1996	Jimmy D'Andrea	Auburn	2013	Mary Catherine Connors	Enterprise
1997	Nancy Boyd	Montgomery	2014	Jacob Kimes	Birmingham
1998	Meryl Jones	Ozark	2015	Cassie Sadie	Montgomery
1999	Kelli Carpenter	Anniston	2016	Steven Higgins	Montgomery
2000	Elizabeth Layton	Mobile	2017	Justala Simpson	Montgomery
2001	Chris Friedman	Mobile	2018	Katherine Voorhees	Hoover
2002	Alan Kirk	Birmingham	2019	Will Hamlet	Montgomery
2003	Andrew Brashier	Pelham	2020	Anna Sadie	Montgomery
			2022	Zach Izer	Montgomery
			2023	Caley Record	Birmingham

FORMER BEST BILL AWARD WINNERS

House of Representatives			Senate	
Year	Name	City	Name	City
1950	Jimmie Price	Tuscaloosa	Bill Brewbaker	Montgomery
1951	Douglas Barry	Birmingham	Carole Waterman	Montgomery
			Mary Dowe	Montgomery
1952	Bryant Maulk	Montgomery	Bobby Wood	Tuscaloosa
1953	Nedra Stringer	Tuscaloosa	John Helms	Montgomery
1954	Terry White	Montgomery	Charlotte Hallman	Tuscaloosa
1955	George Conner	Montgomery	David Crossland	Montgomery
1956	Martha Richard	Anniston	Julian Butler	Birmingham
1957	Janice Newell	Anniston	Bernard Harwood	Montgomery
1958	Jean Harrison	Selma	Joyce Channell	Tuscaloosa
1959	Judy Kay Day	Gadsden	Letitia Davis	Montgomery
	Nancy Godfrey			
1960	Ned Saunders	Bessemer	Warren Hudson	Montgomery
1961	Annie Carroll	Tuscaloosa	Claire Birchfield	Montgomery
			Nadia Brooks	Montgomery
1962	Roger Williams	Tuscaloosa	Steve Walker	Montgomery
1963	Warren Cornelius	Gadsden	Pat White	Anniston
1964	Dianna Hicks	Montgomery	David Morton	Valley
1965	Betsy Lance	Montgomery	Billie NeSmith	Blountsville
	Lance Griffin	Montgomery	Raymond Reynolds	Montgomery
1966	Michael Hart	Montgomery	Ron Bird	Montgomery
	Patty Young	Montgomery		
	Charlton Garner	Montgomery		
1967	Arnold Mooney	Montgomery	Diana Speer	Selma
	Bob Harris	Montgomery	Linda Deason	Selma
			Ronnie Wells	Selma
1968	Debby Johnson	Anniston	Tommy Wright	Huntsville
	Patsy Moore	Anniston	Billy Russell	
1969	Donnie Robinson	Montgomery	Sylvia Sizemore	Enterprise
	Stokes Richie	Montgomery		
1970	Terry Carlton	Tuscaloosa	Larry Childs	Tuscaloosa
			Johnny Maxwell	Tuscaloosa
1971	Judy Hammond	Anniston	David Springer	Anniston
			David Smith	Anniston
1972	Lewis Murray	Anniston	Teresa Easter	Montgomery
			Mike Reed	Montgomery
1973	Nancy Watson	Montgomery	Shawn Kelly	Anniston
	Dan Arighi			
1974	Don West	Tuscaloosa	Dottie Northington	Prattville
1975	Stephanie Wolfe	Montgomery	Jimmy Dennis	Prattville
	Dave Schmertz	Montgomery	Louis Colley	Prattville
1976	Christy Cameron	Tuscaloosa	Ken Mullinax	Anniston
1977	Barbara Johnson	Gadsden	Ann Klinefelter	Anniston

FORMER BEST BILL AWARD WINNERS

House of Representatives			Senate	
Year	Name	City	Name	City
1978	Alan Kendrick	Montgomery	Catherine Barry	Montgomery
			Eric Crum	Montgomery
1979	Dick Brewbaker	Montgomery	Jeff McLaughlin	
1980	Melissa Massengil	Huntsville	Mike Speakman	Auburn
1981	Hal Ward	Huntsville	Allen Newton	Auburn
			David Wadsworth	Tuscaloosa
1982	Richard Parker	Anniston	Nu Nu Leisy	Montgomery
1983	Elizabeth Woodall	Huntsville	Jody Boyd	Huntsville
	Ellen Pond	Huntsville		
1984	Virginia Nisbett	Anniston	Edmond Redd	Florence
	Molly Williams	Anniston		
1985	Kim Hedges	Montgomery	Kenny Kirkpatrick	Montgomery
	Allison Barrow	Montgomery		
	Natalie Threet	Florence		
1986	Thomas Harris	Anniston	Anna Merrill	Montgomery
	Eric Mudd	Anniston		
	Ray Chapman	Anniston		
	Suzanne Gonce	Florence		
	Buffy Gonce	Florence		
	Walton Cherney	Florence		
1987	Brandon Crawford	Anniston	Anna Merrill	Montgomery
			Dan Swartz	Minn, MN
1988	Beth Beshear	Montgomery	Chris McInnish	Montgomery
	Kristin Hatcher	Montgomery		
1989	Kim Reeves	Auburn	Mary Catherine Saidla	Auburn
1990	Ravi Howard	Montgomery	Norman Stockman	Mobile
1991	Leah Tesney	Mobile	David Heilman	Auburn
1992	Kristen McKean	Montgomery	Rebecca Schmidt	Auburn
1993	Katie Strong	Montgomery	Carmen Norris	Auburn
	Heather Rosenblatt	Auburn	Jennifer Channis	Mobile
	Tiffanie Starr	Auburn	Sarah Martin	Montgomery
	Robert Cook	Birmingham		
1995	Wesley Markham	Mobile		
	Spencer Merriweather	Mobile		
1996	Trista Lee	Pike County		
	Willie Davis	Pike County		
1997	Kathryn Marsh	Montgomery	Jay Mehta	Mobile
			Ginny Vance	Mobile
1998	Mitchell Dubina	Montgomery	Thad Inge	Mobile
	Marsten Maddox	Montgomery	Jay Mehta	Mobile
			Rodney Flowers	Pike County
			Trista Lee	Pike County
1999	Rebecca Beers	Selma	Ben Chastain	Auburn

FORMER BEST BILL AWARD WINNERS

House of Representatives			Senate	
Year	Name	City	Name	City
2000	Laura Wiggins	Opelika	Shiva Sankar	Auburn
	Brooke Reynolds	Opelika	James Shambley	Auburn
2001	Jeremy West	Dothan	Buddy Handey	Montgomery
	Eric Crawford	Dothan	Michael Correll	Montgomery
2002	Sarah Bell	Montgomery	Karoline Richardson	Montgomery
2003	Lauren Wybenga	Prattville	Erica Newland	Auburn
	Heather Mickle	Prattville	Meghan Stringer	Montgomery
2004	Peter Susman	Mobile	Dan Ventress	Enterprise
	Alex Pappas	Mobile		
2005	Annika Nordlund	Birmingham	Chris North	Montgomery
	Leanne Cronic	Birmingham		
	Leah Sanders	Birmingham		
2006	Lauren Houston	Montgomery	Caitlin Turecek	Anniston Area
	Matt Visco	Montgomery		
2007	Brittney Hollis	Anniston	Nathan Dow	Enterprise
2008	Amber Voss	Edgewood Acad.	Kayla Kelley	Birmingham
	Taylor Ivins	Edgewood Acad.	Laura Goss	Birmingham
2009	Sarah Strickland	Enterprise	Julia Maloney	Anniston
2010	Aaron DePiano	Birmingham	Sheldon Martin	Montgomery
			Allison Riley	Montgomery
2011	Allie Pfeiffer	Birmingham	Robert Lee	Montgomery
2012	Bryant Williams	Birmingham	Ashley Ann Adams	Montgomery
2013	Wayne Ingram	Birmingham	Natalie Jones	Birmingham
2014	Amelia Putnam	Birmingham	Ben Jackson	Birmingham
2015	Win Woodson	Montgomery	Christina McLaughlin	Hoover
2016	Sean Shelley-Tremblay	Mobile	Justin Clay	Hoover
2017	Justin Clay	Hoover	Bailey Hope	Montgomery
			James Courtney	Mobile
2018	Amanda Jones	Birmingham	Katherine Voorhees	Hoover
2019	Brody Ratliff	Montgomery	Regan Chavers	Spain park
2020	Hudson Wang	Birmingham	Luke Hillegass	Birmingham
2022	Hannah Mills	Birmingham	Elanor Kinderman	Birmingham
2023	Lily Johnson	Birmingham	Rebecca Berry	Birmingham

Former Media Award Winners

Year	Name	City	Year	Name	City
1950	Ilvie Parson	Anniston	1984	Joe Maroney	Huntsville/Madison
1951	Sallie McDade	Montgomery	1988	Jennifer Chappell	Montgomery
1952	Patricia Martin	Anniston	1989	Jennifer Chappell	Montgomery
1953	Mary Frances Wilson	Anniston	1990	Jennifer Chappell	Montgomery
1954	Anne Hollingsworth	Anniston	1991	Patricia Davis	Montgomery
1955	Shirley Hickman	Anniston	1992	Angela Cogburn	Wetumpka
1956	Anita Moses	Anniston	1993	Mary Pat Lawrence	Anniston
1957	Carole Dow	Anniston	1994	Annie Nguyen	Mobile
1958	Jane Woodham	Anniston	1995	Alina Stefanescu	Tuscaloosa
1959	Deck West	Anniston	1996	Allison Head	Montgomery
1960	Janie Anderson	Anniston	1997	Ida Crawford	Montgomery
1961	Janie Anderson	Anniston	1998	Jennifer Bowman	Montgomery
1962	Carol Parnell	Anniston	1999	Sarah Curry	Pike County
1963	Bob Clem	Anniston	2000	Ashley Miles	Pike County
1964	Jack Sellers	Anniston	2001	Hank Johnson	Montgomery
1965	Bill McGuff	Anniston	2002	Brooke Nicholls	Anniston
1966	Keith Jones	Holt	2003	Brooke Nicholls	Anniston
1967	Lilburn Tipton	Anniston	2004	Katy Wise	Birmingham
1968	Frank Bailey	Anniston	2005	Lauren Gilpin	Montgomery
1969	Carol Cameron	Gadsden	2006	Alison Goodwyn	Montgomery
1970	Donna Judge	Anniston	2006	Annie Taliaferro	Dothan
1971	Sidney Odom	Tuscaloosa	2007	Annie Taliaferro	Dothan
1972	Vickie Sears	Anniston	2008	Nicole Geier	Anniston
1973	Randy Dinkens	Dothan	2009	Ashley Johnson	Montgomery
1974	Lu Willis	Anniston	2010	Danielle Carter	Wetumpka
1975	Harlan James	Anniston	2011	Nancy Ann Turner	Wetumpka
1976	Teresa Fuller	Prattville	2012	Kristian Duraski	Montgomery
1979	Denise Bruton	Birmingham	2013	Quanisha Blackmon	Tuskegee
1980	Kevin Ray	Opelika	2014	Amy Dennis	Montgomery
1981	Chuck Wilkenson	Gadsden	2015	Anna Claire Bullard	Montgomery
1982	Linda Garcia	Birmingham	2016	Meagan Holloway-Ragland	Montgomery
1983	Randall Smith	Anniston	2017	Trinity Hunter	Montgomery
			2018	Ashleigh Long	Birmingham
			2019	Julia Stuckey	Vestavia Hills
			2020	Mary Virginia	Montgomery
			2022	Laura Stanton Strickler	Montgomery
			2023	Maddie Morgan	Cherokee County

Alabama Youth Legislature Session Guidelines

Committee

You are assigned a Committee based on the content of your bill. Authors of more than one bill must arrange with the chairperson of the Committee where their bill is assigned, in order to make an appearance before each relevant Committee.

Special Order Calendar

The Governor and his Cabinet have selected 3 bills in each chamber that they wish to see considered immediately on the floor of each chamber. These bills will be the first 3 bills heard in each chamber.

Floor Debate

When addressing the chamber, be sure to say "Madame / Mister Speaker" (House and First Year) or "Madame / Mister President" (Senate). You will then give your name and delegation and inform them of your action (i.e. Address the chamber, ask the patron a series of questions, yield, etc...)

Resource Advisors

Each chamber will have College Staff members dedicated to providing research to delegates concerning other delegate's bills (research on delegate's own bills should have been completed prior to the conference.)

Research request forms will be found in the back of each chamber at the Research Request Station.

Completed research requests will be returned in a timely manner to the Research Request Station.

Pages

Pages are to carry only messages pertaining to the debate on the floor. Non-relevant messages will be destroyed.

Supreme Court

Any legislator (House, Senate or First Year) may challenge the constitutionality of *any* bill regardless of its status. Delegates wishing to challenge a bill's constitutionality must go to *8th Floor - Joint Briefing Room* and officially challenge the bill. If the Supreme Court accepts the case, you will be summoned alongside the bill's author to debate the constitutionality of the bill in front of the Supreme Court. The Attorney General will be available to assist delegates in preparing to challenge the constitutionality of a bill. *It is important to know that the decision of the Supreme Court is an opinion and has no official bearing on the passage of a bill, its place on a docket, or the Governor's signing decision. The Supreme Court's decision can be used in the course of debate on a bill.*

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices are permitted on the floor of any chamber. This includes cell phones and laptops. Any member found to be in possession of an electronic device on the floor of a chamber will be escorted from that chamber.

Other Requests:

- Please do not use the vending machines in the Statehouse
- Please respect the property of our Senators and Representatives by not touching anything on their desks, opening the drawers, or adjusting the microphones.
- If you have any questions, please ask your advisor for help.
- Stay on floors 5 – 8 of the Statehouse during sessions. Do not explore other areas of the Statehouse as they are off limits.
- Food, drink, or chewing gum is NOT allowed in the Statehouse or Capitol.

Proposal to Challenge Bill Constitutionality

Before the

Alabama Youth Supreme Court

Regarding

(Circle One) House Senate First Year Bill No. ____

Author: _____

In the space below, briefly summarize the proposal of the bill you would like to challenge:

In the space below, briefly state your argument(s) *against* the bill's constitutionality.

Your Name: _____

Delegation: _____

Chamber: _____

The Bill of Rights

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

SENATE BILLS

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

These bills have been selected by the leadership to skip the Committee Process and be debated first in their Chamber. Debate will begin on these bills when Chambers convene on Friday. They are not assigned to a Committee. The patrons should report to Committee 1.

SB013 Bank on It: Reducing the Number of Unbanked and Underbanked Individuals in Alabama	Cleo Washington	Montgomery- LAMP
SB034 Opioid Crisis Response Act 2024	Maryam Kazamel	Birmingham- Vestavia Hills
SB044 Build Back Alabama Prisons Act	Mary Frances Itsede	Hartselle

The Regular Calendar will be distributed as soon as possible after Rules Committee and will be available from the Clerk/Secretary in each chamber.

SENATE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE 1 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRPERSON ANN MARIE MCDANIEL

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 617

COMMITTEE 2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WELFARE, AND FINANCE & TAXATION

CHAIRPERSON MARY FRANCES ITSEDE

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 602

COMMITTEE 3 CRIMINAL JUSTICE, JUCICIARY, AND ENVIRONMENT

CHAIRPERSON ANNA BROWN

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 603

COMMITTEE 4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WELFARE

CHAIRPERSON TYRA DAVIS

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 825



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB001

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Grayson Hydinger,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Digital Identification Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency - Alabama Law Enforcement Agency ("ALEA") means the state government agency responsible for, among other things, distributing drivers' licenses, nondriver identification cards, and other forms of identification.

Digital ID - An authorized digital copy of an approved form of Alabama ID, for example, a driver's license, fishing license, nondriver identification card, etc., displayed via a state-approved application on wireless mobile devices.

Section II: Background

In 2015, legislation was passed in Alabama enabling authorized digital copies of state IDs to possess the same level of legality and authority as physical copies. This, hypothetically, allows Alabama citizens to present digital versions of their ID cards in everyday scenarios such as traffic stops, purchasing of age-restricted goods like alcohol, etc., and have them accepted as if they were the state-issued physical copy. Disappointingly, the state still has yet to offer Digital IDs to its citizens, and as a result, Alabama has fallen behind other states like Arizona, Georgia, and Colorado which have implemented this technology.

Section III: Proposition

ALEA's existing IT Division shall be tasked with creating, issuing, and maintaining Digital IDs for Alabama citizens, either using its own resources or via contracting to a third party, whichever is less expensive, in keeping with the ISO 18013-5 mDL Standard to ensure compatibility with both iOS and Android devices.

ALEA shall additionally be authorized to charge a reasonable fee to issue a Digital ID, not to exceed the amount charged to issue a physical copy of an ID of the same type.

Section IV: Justification

As Alabama citizens' lives become increasingly tied to their phones, for everything from credit cards, plane tickets, and even car and house keys, one glaring roadblock to this process is the State ID. Even though it authorized the use of Digital IDs almost a decade ago, Alabama has now fallen behind other states (Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Utah) in terms of their implementation. Now, however, the necessary behind-the-scenes infrastructure (specifically, the ISO 18013-5 mDL Standard) to enable the Digital IDs has been built out and tested with great success in other states. It is time for Alabama to make the overdue decision to improve the quality of life of its citizens and showcase to the rest of the nation

the modernity and forward-thinking that Alabama is capable of by implementing this technology for its citizens.

Section V: Implementation

Upon enactment, the State need only make a one-time investment from the transportation budget to implement computer system modifications to allow the ALEA system to verify the information provided by the app. There are minimal recurring expenses as a result of the implementation of this bill, as the computer systems necessary already exist and the data therein is already used for a variety of other purposes by ALEA.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill will come into effect on January 1st of the year following its approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law, or 6 months after such time, whichever is longer.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB002

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Jaelyn Whatley,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

- Environmental conservation: the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them.
- Solar energy: radiant light and heat from the Sun that is harnessed using a range of technologies such as solar power to generate electricity, solar thermal energy, and solar architecture.

Section 2: Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act are to encourage, facilitate, and accelerate the adoption and utilization of solar energy resources within the state of Alabama. The key objectives of the act include: Economic Growth, Energy Independence, Environmental Conservation, Cost Savings for Consumers, Job Creation and Workforce Development, and Public Awareness and Education.

In summary, the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act is designed to harness the economic, environmental, and social benefits of solar energy adoption, positioning Alabama as a leader in sustainable and clean energy practices.

Section 3: Justification

The justification for the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act lies in addressing several pressing issues and leveraging opportunities specific to the state. Here are key justifications for the proposed legislation: Strategic Utilization of Resources, Monitoring and Reporting, Strategic Planning and Accountability, and Environmental Conservation.

Section 4: Financial Incentives

The financial incentives for the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act would be designed to encourage individuals, businesses, and organizations to invest in solar energy projects. Here's a breakdown of potential financial incentives: Tax Credits, Grants, Low-Interest Loans, Performance-Based Incentives, Net Metering Incentives, Property Tax Exemptions, Training and Workforce Development Grants, and Public-Private Partnerships.

It's important to carefully structure these incentives to maximize their impact on the adoption of solar energy while ensuring responsible use of public funds. Regular reviews and adjustments based on the outcomes and changing market conditions should be built into the legislation. Additionally, clear eligibility criteria and reporting mechanisms should be established to track the effectiveness of the incentives.

Section 5: Job Creation and Workforce Development

To effectively promote job creation and workforce development under the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act, consider implementing the following initiatives:

1. Solar Workforce Training Programs:

- Establish partnerships with vocational schools, community colleges, and trade unions to develop specialized training programs focused on solar energy technology, installation, and maintenance.
- Provide scholarships or financial incentives to individuals pursuing education and certification in solar-related fields.

2. Apprenticeship Opportunities:

- Encourage solar companies to create apprenticeship programs that offer hands-on experience and mentorship in solar installation and maintenance.
 - Provide incentives to businesses that participate in apprenticeship initiatives, such as tax credits or grants for training expenses.
3. Collaboration with Educational Institutions:
- Work with universities and technical colleges to integrate solar energy courses into existing curricula, ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary skills for the evolving solar industry.
 - Establish research partnerships between academic institutions and the solar sector to drive innovation and technology advancements.
4. Job Placement Assistance:
- Create a centralized job placement and career counseling service for individuals completing solar energy training programs.
 - Facilitate connections between trained individuals and solar companies through job fairs, networking events, and online platforms.

Section 6: Public Awareness and Education

Creating a successful public awareness and education campaign for the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act requires a thoughtful and strategic approach. Here are some ideas:

- Targeted Outreach:
 - Identify key demographics and communities in Alabama that would benefit most from solar energy adoption. Tailor messages to address their specific concerns and highlight how the bill's objectives align with their needs.
- Educational Workshops and Webinars:
 - Organize workshops and webinars to educate the public about the benefits of solar energy. Invite experts to explain how solar technology works, its environmental impact, and the potential cost savings for consumers.
- Community Events:
 - Participate in or host community events, fairs, or festivals to engage with a broader audience. Set up booths with informational materials, demonstrations, and interactive activities to make the information accessible and engaging.
- Partnerships with Schools and Colleges:
 - Collaborate with educational institutions to integrate solar energy education into the curriculum. This could involve guest lectures, hands-on projects, or field trips to solar installations.
- Media Campaigns:
 - Develop a multi-media campaign utilizing TV, radio, social media, and print materials to reach a diverse audience. Use compelling visuals, success stories, and infographics to convey the key messages effectively.

Section 7: Reporting and Evaluation

Requires periodic reporting on the progress and impact of the solar energy promotion initiatives. This section may mandate the assessment of job creation, economic growth, and environmental benefits resulting from the implementation of the bill.

Section 8: Sunset Provision

8.1 **Review Period:**

- The Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act shall be subject to a comprehensive review every [2 years] from the date of enactment.

8.2 **Evaluation Criteria:**

- The review shall assess the achievement of key objectives, including but not limited to Economic Growth, Energy Independence, Environmental Conservation, Cost Savings for Consumers, Job Creation and Workforce Development, and Public Awareness and Education.

8.3 **Public Input:**

- The review process shall include soliciting public input through hearings, surveys, and other appropriate means to gather diverse perspectives on the impact and effectiveness of the Act.

8.4 **Independent Evaluation:**

- An independent commission or agency shall be appointed to conduct the review, ensuring objectivity and impartiality.

8.5 **Adjustments and Recommendations:**

- Based on the findings of the review, the commission shall provide recommendations for adjustments, improvements, or potential extensions of the Act.

8.6 **Legislative Action:**

- The Legislature shall consider the commission's recommendations and may choose to amend, extend, or conclude the Alabama Solar Energy Promotion Act based on the evaluation results.

8.7 **Continuous Improvement:**

- Regardless of the review outcomes, the Legislature may choose to conduct interim evaluations at regular intervals to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with evolving technological, economic, and environmental factors.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB003

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Lilia Sokol,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Justice For All

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Judicial Override- the process by which a judge overrides a fair jury's conviction typically for a harsher sentence such as death
- Nitrogen Hypoxia- the process of suffocating someone with nitrogen

Section II: Proposal

Retroactively ban judicial override so those on death row who were sentenced due to it are no longer on death row, and ban nitrogen hypoxia as a means of execution.

Section III: Justification

There are currently 32 people on death row who were given life sentences without parole by a fair jury but were convicted to death due to judicial override. Many of them are minorities and were sentenced to death by the judge partially due to racism or racial bias. To override someone's fair and just verdict is not only immoral but also unconstitutional under the 8th and 5th Amendments. Judicial override was banned in 2017, but not retroactively, so those who were unjustly convicted are still receiving a harsher punishment than they deserve.

Similarly, nitrogen hypoxia, which isn't used by veterinarians because it is considered to be inhumane, is set to be used for the first time in American history on January 24, 2024, on someone who was convicted through judicial override. Experts throughout the country reject this method of execution under the understanding that it is cruel and inhumane and is simply a way for pro-death penalty states to get around the unconstitutionality of the death penalty if it were to be judged as such. Nitrogen hypoxia can be administered in two ways: through a sealed mask or a gas chamber like those used during World War Two. The first option is the one that is expected to be used, but because those who perform executions are not trained professionals, the masks may end up not fully sealed which can prolong a person's suffering and maybe even prevent the person's death entirely. The second method is considered by the state to be more effective, but the prisoner would have to be strapped down to a bed without anyone else in the room. Both are inhumane and cruel and unusual punishment.

Section IV: Consequences

Those who were previously given death sentences would be moved into the general prison population, but other than that, the state would spend less money on executions and the same amount on the prisoners who are currently on death row.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Section VI: Payment

No extra payment is required for this bill to be in full effect.

Section VII: Conflicting Law

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB005

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sam Steiner,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Investing in Lives, Not Cells: The Alabama Act for Decriminalization and a Healthy Justice System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Investing in Lives, Not Cells: The Alabama Act for Decriminalization and a Healthy Justice System

Section I: Definitions

1. **Controlled Substance:** Any substance classified as a Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Ala. Code § 13A-12-231).
2. **Small Quantity:** For the purposes of this Act, a quantity of a controlled substance that is considered a 10 day supply or that does not exceed the following amounts:
 - Cannabis: 25 grams
 - Cocaine: 2 grams
 - Heroin: 1 grams
 - Methamphetamine: 0.5 grams
 - Psilocybin mushrooms: 2 grams
- **Other Controlled Substances:** As determined by the Alabama Department of Public Health based on their potential for harm and addiction.

1. **Commission:** The Alabama Commission on Drug Decriminalization and Public Health established by this Act.

Section II: Background

Alabama has some of the nation's harshest penalties for drug possession, resulting in high incarceration rates and significant strain on state resources. These measures have not decreased drug use or related harms. Instead of solving problems, they create barriers to healthcare, education, and employment for individuals struggling through addiction. The first step to ending the cycle is decriminalizing the victims.

Section III: Proposition

This Act decriminalizes the possession of small quantities of controlled substances in the State of Alabama and establishes a framework that lifts victims from the vicious cycle of addiction. This bill also seeks to save taxpayers billions of dollars by reducing the heavy strain on the criminal justice system in Alabama.

Section IV: Justification

Decriminalization reduces the immense burden on the Alabama criminal justice system and allows law enforcement to focus on actual violent crime and public safety. It removes the stigma associated with drug use, encouraging individuals to seek treatment without fear of arrest and prosecution. Funding saved from reduced incarceration can be re-directed towards effective public health interventions, harm reduction programs, and treatment options. Alabama is currently planning a 1 billion dollar prison (the most expensive in

US history) and this measure would be mitigated after decriminalization. This bill both saves immense taxpayer resources and makes the necessary steps in the right direction regarding lifting victims from the brutal cycle of addiction now and in the future.

Section V: Implementation

1. The Alabama Commission on Drug Decriminalization and Public Health is established within the Alabama Department of Public Health.

2. The Commission will:

- Develop and implement a public education campaign regarding the new policy and available resources for individuals struggling with addiction.
- Partner with existing organizations to expand access to harm reduction services, including needle exchange programs and naloxone distribution.
- Fund and oversee evidence-based treatment programs across the state.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Act and report findings to the Legislature.

1. Funding for the Commission will be allocated from the savings associated with reduced incarceration costs.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed..

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB006

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Julia Daigle,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Stick to Science not Subjectivity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Breathalyzer: the legal breath test to determine if a person is driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Driving Under the Influence: this charge is given when someone above the age of 21 has been in control of a vehicle when there is 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in his or her blood, or when someone under the age of 21 has been in control of a vehicle when there is 0.02 percent or more by weight of alcohol in his or her blood. (Alabama Code Title 32-5A-191, sections A1 and B).
- Field Sobriety Test: also referred to as standardized field sobriety tests, are a battery of tests used by police officers to determine if a person suspected of impaired driving is intoxicated with alcohol or other drugs

Section II: Proposal

This bill will outlaw the use of field sobriety tests when pulling a driver over for a suspected DUI. Instead Alabama law enforcement officers will rely solely on breathalyzer, blood, or urine tests and go by the standards outlined in Alabama Code Title 32.

Section III: Justification

The optional field sobriety test that many believe is required can be used to charge someone with a DUI based on a non scientifically proven test. Having a disability, being overweight, nervousness, an inner ear disorder, or scoliosis are all possible things that could impair one's ability to pass these tests. The fact that these tests can be conducted with loose standards and subjectivity puts people at a risk for possible prejudice to play a role in their charge. Studies have shown that breathalyzers were able to correctly detect drug use in 87% of cases which is the same accuracy as both blood and urine tests.

Section IV: Consequences

The consequences of this bill would be establishing a standardized and scientific approach to making DUI charges

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

Section VI: Payment

This bill does not require any state funding

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective when it is passed.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB007

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Ava Donaldson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prison is not Dope

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Decriminalization: the action or process of ceasing to treat something as illegal or as a criminal offense.

Legalization: the process of making something legal when it was previously illegal

Intent to distribute: to possess with intent to deliver or transfer possession of a controlled substance to another person, with or without any financial interest in the transaction.

Marijuana/Cannabis: smoked or consumed as a psychoactive (mind-altering) drug

Section II: Background

The legislation of medical cannabis has already been approved within the state of Alabama; however, those who do not have the qualifications of getting a Medical Cannabis Card face criminal charges from fines as high as \$30,000 and jail time up to 20 years. Alongside this, the Alabama prison system is chronically overpopulated. With this bill, the amount of people being prosecuted for recreational cannabis would lower the number of people in county jails for these petty crimes. Although the numbers of those incarcerated due to cannabis related offenses are much lower than other crimes (2,351 in 2016) this bill would still create a major change in the overpopulation issue in Alabama prison systems. It will also remove the stigma associated with someone who has been incarcerated which will allow those cited under this law to continue to be eligible for gainful employment..

Section III: Proposition

Changing the legal proceedings from jail time to a fine of a set amount for those who are found to be in the possession of marijuana and/or marijuana paraphernalia (See section V). This bill would not legalize marijuana but decriminalize it which would in turn decrease the overpopulation within our state's prison systems.

Section IV: Payment

This bill would not require any increases of money from taxpayers within the state but it would; however, lower the amount of taxpayer dollars due to the lowering of population in state and county prisons. If this bill is passed it would free up space within our prisons for those who have committed more aggressive crimes which threaten the community (violent crimes, theft, etc.)

Section V: Implementation

Those found in possession on marijuana will not be incarcerated but will face possible fines based on the number of offenses. For example, a first offense will carry a citation of up to \$250. A second offense will carry a fine of up to \$750, and the fine will increase by double for every offense thereafter.

Those found with the intent to distribute (someone in possession of more than 24 ounces of cannabis) shall face a fine of up to \$1,000 for first offense and any current or future employer will be notified. Anyone convicted of intent to distribute three or more times with a time frame of five years may face up to a year of incarceration and a maximum fine of \$6,000. The courts will have discretion to enhance the fine and/or sentence if the intent to distribute is proven to be within 500 yards of a school, church, and/or a youth community center.

Anyone found to be driving under the influence of marijuana will face the laws codified for convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol.

After each conviction under this new law the defendant shall receive educational material concerning adverse effects of marijuana use. Repeat offenders may be provided treatment facility contacts to seek assistance to reduce or eliminate their use of marijuana. The Courts and judicial system can partner with community based non profit organizations to assist those in need of these services.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB008

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Mckenzie Ormond,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Juvenile Justice Diversion and Rehabilitation Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Title: Juvenile Justice Diversion and Rehabilitation Act

Section I: Definitions

- (a) Juvenile Offender: An individual under the age of 18 years who has been charged with a delinquent act.
- (b) Diversion Program: Community-based initiatives providing alternatives to traditional juvenile justice proceedings, emphasizing rehabilitation, education, and community involvement.

Section II: Proposal

The Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Diversion and Rehabilitation Act aims to prioritize the rehabilitation and positive development of juvenile offenders, fostering a healthier and more supportive approach within the juvenile justice system in Alabama by implementing 1) compressive mental health screenings upon all youth entering the juvenile justice system, 2) requiring juveniles to complete up to forty-five hours of community service, 3) including vocational training services in juvenile facilities providing youth with practical skills for employment, and 5) mentorship program that allows juvenile offenders to connect with positive role models and community members to provide guidance and support.

Section III: Justification

1. By allowing for juvenile offenders rehabilitation instead of jail, Alabama would be able to reallocate some of its funding spent on prisons to mental health services. Recently, Alabama legislatures allocated \$1.3B to be spent on a new prison facility in order to prevent overcrowding. The issue of overcrowding is not due to high crime rates, but due to unfair punishment.
2. By implementing comprehensive mental health assessments to all youth entering the juvenile justice system underlying issues will be identified and appropriate interventions can be provided. Studies have shown that between 65 and 70 percent of minors in the juvenile system have mental health issues.
3. A new report published by the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Chicago showed that youth that participated in mentoring programs were fifty four percent less likely to have been arrested and forty one percent less likely to have engaged in substance use. The study also found that their social skills, self-control, and school engagement improved.
4. Providing at-risk youth with vocational training and work opportunities is a common strategy to discourage future delinquency and involvement with the justice system. In many states, up to 80 percent of the youth who are incarcerated are rearrested within 3 years of release, but the opportunity to be introduced into the workforce while in rehabilitation can decrease those percentages.

Section IV: Administrative provisions

A comprehensive system for data collection and evaluation shall be implemented to assess the effectiveness of diversion programs, ensuring continuous improvement.

Section V: Funding

The Alabama Department of Corrections (ALDOC) shall be mandated to reallocate funds within the department and give 7% of the budget to establish community-based youth centers offering counseling, educational programs, and skill-building activities as alternatives to juvenile detention.

The state shall actively seek and consider formula grant opportunities from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to supplement the funding for juvenile diversion programs.

Section VIII: Severability

Any laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section IX: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective immediately upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB009

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Kailan Stoves,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Marijuana Legalisation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I Definitions →

marijuana legalization: the process of removing all legal prohibitions against it (marijuana).

Marijuana: cannabis, especially as smoked or consumed as a psychoactive (mind-altering) drug.

Section II Purpose → The State of Alabama shall legalize marijuana for recreational use and label it as a controlled substance. Alabama's law on possession of marijuana should also be changed. Alabama law on owning and operating a dispensary as well as obtaining a license should also be changed by lowering the almost \$42,000 licensing fee to about \$6,000. By legalizing marijuana for recreational use and lowering the licensing fee we're able to attract more citizens and investors interested in selling legal cannabis.

Section III Justification → The State of Alabama's tax collection has been on a steady decline since 2021, decreasing the economy more every year. Alabama's per capita property tax collections are the lowest in the nation creating a revenue deficit, and leaving state and local governments with less to spend to provide government services such as education, health, and public safety.

Alabama is the most inflation-affected state in the nation according to the Republican-led Joint Economic Committee in the U.S. Senate, Alabama has experienced an about 13% price increase in basic goods since January 2021, with households spending about \$613 more per month on essentials than previously.

Section IV Consequences → If individuals do not pay the \$6,000 licensing fee they can not sell recreational cannabis and may be subject to fines or other sanctions.

Section V Enforcement → This bill will be enforced by a new division, the ACLC: Alabama Cannabis Legalization Commission in collaboration with the pre-existing Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission. They will oversee the selling, licensing, and establishment of the legalization and recreation of cannabis.

Section VI Payment → Marijuana legalization would cost the state close to zero dollars as it's fully funded by the individual; however, there is the cost of establishing the ACLC which would be covered from the general fund. Additional costs would also be covered by the general fund as well as tax revenue and licensing costs from those who wish to own cannabis dispensaries and legally distribute.

Section VII Conflicting Laws → Any laws or parts of a law in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VIII Enactment → This bill will become effective January 1, 2025, upon its enactment by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB010

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Kileigh Dickinson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A Bill to delay executions in Alabama until a safer execution method is finalized.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

We define...

Execution: also known as the death penalty, as the carrying out of a sentence of death on a condemned person.

Lethal injection: an injection administered for the purposes of euthanasia or as a means of capital punishment.

Section II: Background

Whereas in the last 5 years, almost half of the nation's botched executions have occurred in Alabama, with two failed lethal injections in a period of two months. As these failed, painful executions put a scorn on Alabama's history as well as brought the term "cruel and unusual punishment" into retrospect. When considering these failed executions, we find it necessary to pause from executions until we are able to find a painless and stable method. After the failures of lethal injection, Alabama plans to become the first state to use Nitrogen Gas as an execution method. On January 25th, death row inmate Kenneth Smith will become the first person in the history of the U.S. to be executed by Nitrogen Gas, many organizations across the nation warned against this on account of the possibility of a "painful and humiliating death". Alabama is one of only three states that allow for death by Nitrogen Hypoxia, the other two being Mississippi and Oklahoma. This method of execution is untested and could be just as harmful and unsteady as lethal injections.

Section III: Proposition

This Bill will delay all death penalties until

1. A safe, relatively painless, and effective measure is found.
2. Nonfaulty and not expired lethal injections are purchased, and the state vows to use only current items.
3. Nitrogen Hypoxia is able to be proved to not fall under "cruel and unusual punishment" and is proved to be relatively painless

If either of these methods are met, executions can continue to be carried out.

Section IV: Justification

Botched executions are traumatic, incredibly painful, and involve unnecessary agony for the prisoner. In order to stay within the confines of the law, we must be able to provide a swift death free from cruel and unusual punishment. Thus, it is to be assumed that if we are unable to provide that with almost no margin for error then we should not be dealing out such penalties.

Section V: Payment

If necessary, however very unlikely, payments will be drawn from the State General Fund.

Section VI: Implementation

This bill will be overseen and carried out by the Alabama Department of Criminal Justice.

Section VII: Severability Clause

“Any laws or parts of law in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed”

Section VIII: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective immediately upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB011

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Abigail Schoensiegel,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Renewed Bill Regarding Chemical Castration for Sex Offenders

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1) Definitions

High Risk Sex Offender: a person who has committed at least two violent sex crimes, at least one of which was a violent sex offense. (See listed offenses)

Rape: any sexual activity that takes place without the consent of one of the people involved

Sex trafficking: the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Child Prostitution: a form of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The term normally refers to prostitution of a minor, or person under the legal age of consent.

Sexual Assault: illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent (as because of age or physical or mental incapacity) or who places the assailant (such as a doctor) in a position of trust or authority.

Chemical Castration: drug of leuprolide acetate (Lupron) that has intense effects to reduce sex drive, sexual fantasies, and capacity for sexual arousal in males. In this case dihydrotestosterone is suppressed.

2) Background

Our society has way too many sex offenders running loose, and far too many peoples' lives being ruined by them. We can only blame the release of all the sex offenders who are loose on the poor criminal justice system. Statistics show that there are on average 463,634 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the us. About 3% of American men—or 1 in 33—have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. The number of children conceived from rape each year in the United States might range from 7,750—12,500, and about 3 million women in the U.S. experienced RRP during their lifetime. Not to mention the mental side effects for those who have experienced sexual assault. Reports show that 94% women after two weeks of being raped experienced post traumatic stress disorder and 30% after 9 monthes.The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are approximately 96.3 million adult women in the United States age 18 or older. If 13% of American women have been raped and 31% of rape victims have developed PTSD, then 3.8 million adult American women have had rape-related PTSD. About 30% of victims suffer from suicidal contemplation and 13% go through with it. 30% of rape vicitms experience depression and 21% struggle with it all of their lives. Drug and alcohol abuse oftentime precede this depression and about 20.1% suffer from major alcohol problems and 7.8% struggle with drug abuse. That's only the surface of this problem. Saunder's Law Firm in Europe confirms that, "the broad indication is that, during 2021-2022, of the

70,330 rapes reported to police only 1,378 led to a conviction. This is a conviction rate of less than 2%. However these outcomes are viewed - whether in light of short term targets or recent trends, a 2% conviction rate is an absurd, abject failure." We may not be in Europe, but the same issues are prevalent in the US. In California there is a report that over 7,000 sex offenders convicted of "lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years of age" were released the same year they were sentenced. The saddest part is that research shows that convicted pedophiles spend an average of maybe 2 years and 10 months in prison.

3) Proposal

- A law to enforce chemical castration on convicted sex offenders guilty of rape, statutory rape, aggravated sexual assault, marital rape, sexual exploitation of minors, sex trafficking, forcible sodomy, child prostitution, first degree statutory rape, and gang rape or any other high risk and sexually dangerous convictions against individuals of all ages. Said convicts will receive court ordered therapy along with chemical castration treatment for the court's desired time sentence. Convicted sex offenders will remain registered as a sex offender for life on his or her record. Prison sentence remains the decision of the court.

4) Justification -

This new bill will provide offenders not only with an opportunity to change their mindset and ways in a process that protects other American citizens, but it will also bring justice to victims and reassurance to others. The therapy process and chemical castration doses will take out the conflicting variables that contribute to the harmful actions, and will hopefully present society with a renewed person that will no longer crave and act upon their destructive desires. What is better than a safer person and a protected world?

5) Enforcement

- Said convicts will receive court ordered therapy along with chemical castration treatment for the court's desired time sentence. Convicted sex offenders will remain registered as a sex offender for life on his or her record. Prison sentence remains the decision of the court.

6) Penalties

- Sex Offenders who are court ordered to receive chemical castration that refuse to meet their check ins after prison release will receive either extended parole, extended prison sentence, and/or extended time release for chemical castration dosing. If the sex offender refuses to comply with chemical castration dosages, it will be up to the court to decide the following repercussions. The only exception for resisting chemical castration treatment is if serious health complications occur during treatment or if there is an underlying health condition that would worsen the condition or harm the convict.

7) Payment

- As of right now, the state of Alabama already uses chemical castration, there would be no change in the means of payment. Currently, the offender is required to pay for the treatment.

8) Conflicting Laws

- Any and all laws found in conflict with this law are null and void upon its passage.

9) Effective Date -

- Our state desperately needs this bill, so it would be effective immediately.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB013

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Cleo Washington, N/A N/A

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Bank on It: Reducing the Number of Unbanked and Underbanked Individuals in Alabama

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- “Unbanked” is defined as an individual who does not have a savings or checking account with a bank, credit union, or any traditional financial institution.
- “Underbanked” shall be defined as an individual with access to a savings or checking account with a bank, credit union, or any traditional financial institution; however, they regularly use alternative financial services.
 - “Alternative financial services” are resources such as payday loans, check-cashing, money orders, etc., provided outside traditional financial institutions.
- “Low-income households” are defined as households whose annual incomes fall below the federal poverty thresholds, calculated by the Census Bureau.

Section II: Proposal

- The use of alternative financial services in Alabama shall be reduced by:
 - Incentivizing financial institutions to provide banking services to low-income households, including starter accounts with low minimum balances and lessened monthly account fees. This also promotes inexpensive short-term loans to compete with payday lenders directly.
 - Incentivizing employers to enact the direct deposit of paychecks.
 - Incentivizing proper credit-building among these individuals.
- Programs focused on secured credit cards and credit counseling services will lay the foundation for a positive credit history.
- Furthermore, offering small-dollar loans to individuals who would not qualify for traditional loans provides the opportunity to boost credit.
- Providing education on personal financial matters to low-income households, including through electronic methods.
- This education would inform individuals about financial concepts such as budgeting, savings, and other responsible banking practices.
- If electronics are not used, it would be the responsibility of the financial institution’s employees to engage in this education, if necessary.
- The government will collaborate with financial institutions to achieve these goals.

Section III: Justification

- Alabama is all too familiar with the effects of a lack of banking. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reports that over 230,000 Alabamians are classified as unbanked. Furthermore, data explains that all 67 counties in the state feature physical bank branches; however, eight counties (Coosa, Macon, Wilcox, Perry, Green, Hale, Bulloch, and Conecuh) contain three or fewer locations.
- There are numerous reasons individuals cite for being unbanked and underbanked, including:
 - A lack of funds, or an individual's perception of not having enough money to put into an account.
 - Worries about fees and other costs associated with checking and savings accounts.
 - A lack of trust in banking institutions and concerns about maintaining their privacy in these institutions.
- It is imperative that these individuals receive support in their banking efforts, in order to ensure that every Alabamian has access to banking services.

Section IV: Consequences

- If this bill becomes law, Alabama will see a reduction in its number of unbanked and underbanked citizens, which will cause a corresponding reduction in their uses of alternative financial services.
- Additionally, rural and minority communities disproportionately affected by this issue will experience some relief.
- Furthermore, an emerging middle class will bloom in Alabama, allowing them to positively contribute to our state's economy.

Section V: Enforcement

- The Alabama State Banking Department and The Alabama Department of Revenue shall jointly oversee the implementation of this legislation.

Section VI: Funding

- Alabama's corporate income tax rate is 6.5%, which will remain under this legislation.
- However, 23% of funds collected through this tax from financial institutions will be allocated to said financial institutions to implement the efforts outlined in this bill.

Section VII: Severance

- All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill will take effect on January 1, 2025.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB014

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Jordan Belser, KaMyah Allen

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Livable Wages for Alabamians Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: The intent of this Legislation is to increase the base minimum wage for hourly employees.

Section 2: Minimum wage: the lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement. Living Wage: a wage that is high enough to maintain a normal standard of living. Clock Hour: The period of time during which one engages in paid work.

Section 3: With the cost of living increasing and the minimum wage not, the importance of increasing it is paramount in this time of living. Federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009, at which time it was \$6.55. Currently, the Federal Minimum wage is \$7.25, which is not a livable wage for Alabamians and their families. This Legislation is to propose a yearly increase of \$2.00 per clock hour pay, per year, for the preceding four years not to exceed \$16.00 as the base minimum wage.

Acknowledging the impact on small businesses, this legislation recognizes the need for a balanced approach to ensure economic sustainability. To support small enterprises during this transition, mechanisms such as tax incentives, grants, or other financial support may be explored. It is imperative to foster an environment where businesses, especially smaller ones, can adapt to the proposed wage increase without undue financial strain. The goal remains for all Alabamians to be able to provide for themselves and their families with a livable wage. It is also the aspiration for many of our citizens to transition out of poverty to a livable middle-income status.

Section 4: Non compliance of business owners and or employers will incur penalties in accordance with Alabama Code Section 25-1-30(d)(g) and U.S. Department of Labor regulations.

Section 5: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or any provisions of it are hereby repealed.

Section 6 : This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB015

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Shiloh Britt, Kailyn Hooks

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Paid Parental Leave Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: This bill aims to establish a comprehensive paid parental leave program in the state of Alabama, recognizing the importance of supporting families during significant life events and fostering a healthy work-life balance.

Section II: (a) "Parent" refers to biological, adoptive, or foster parents.

(b) "Employee" includes full-time, part-time, and temporary workers.

(c) "employer" pertains to any individual or entity employing individuals within the state.

(d) "FMLA" The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides certain employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year. It also requires that their group health benefits be maintained during the leave.

Section III: Currently in the state of Alabama parents that have a change in family status either by adoption or birth are federally eligible for up to 12 weeks of job protected leave (FMLA). Said requested leave is usually unpaid unless an employee has elected to use paid vacation or illness time, or short term disability insurance. Unfortunately, many Alabama workers do not have financial security if such family status changes occur. This legislation will provide employees a percentage of weekly or monthly salary to assist with household needs, such as utilities and groceries. Although this financial provision will not provide an employee a full salary, it will provide cushion for those in need.

Employee Eligibility:

Employees who have completed at least six months of continuous service with an employer are eligible. Eligible employees are entitled to a maximum of 12 weeks of paid parental leave within a 12-month period. Employees must provide reasonable notice and relevant documentation to their employers prior to taking parental leave.

Employers may request documentation supporting the need for parental leave.

Job Protection

(a) Employees taking parental leave shall be guaranteed job protection and benefits continuation.

(b) Employers must reinstate employees to the same or an equivalent position upon return.

Section IV: According to American Fidelity, a provider of short term disability benefits for employees, an average financial compensation plan is 60-70% of an employee's monthly income. Compared to other short term disability providers this is the industry standard salary percentage payout. This legislation will provide

Family Leave payments of a minimum of 50-70% of an employee's salary. Employers will be required to pay an annual fee to the Alabama Department of Labor Trust Fund according to the number of employees. This annual contribution will equal to 2 percent less of a company's annual required contribution of

Unemployment Insurance and Workman's Compensation.

Section V: The Department of Labor shall conduct periodic reviews to assess the effectiveness of this Act, with recommendations for amendments as needed. Said department will also be responsible for enforcing compliance.

Section VI: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or any provisions of it are hereby repealed.

Section VII: This Act shall become law upon the signature of the Governor to take effect October 1, 2024, and apply to parental leave taken on or after that date.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB016

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): James Gipson, N/A N/A

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Pay Teachers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1 Definitions

Salary - a fixed, regular payment, typically paid on a monthly or biweekly basis but often expressed as an annual sum, made by an employer to an employee, especially a professional or white-collar worker.

Teacher - A teacher, also called a schoolteacher or formally an educator, is a person who helps students acquire knowledge, competence, or virtue via the practice of teaching. Informally, the role of a teacher may be taken on by anyone.

Undergraduate Degree - Undergraduate education is conducted after secondary education and before postgraduate education, usually in a college or university. It typically includes all postsecondary programs up to a bachelor's degree level.

Graduate Degree - Postgraduate education, graduate education, or graduate school consists of academic or professional degrees, certificates, diplomas, or other qualifications usually pursued by postsecondary students who have earned an undergraduate degree.

2 Bill Description

Salaries for teachers could be more manageable. I would know because both of my parents are teachers. In Alabama, for example, the average salary for teachers is \$52,191 or \$25/hour. With the time teachers spend at school and what they have to deal with, this pay needs to be higher. Even if the teacher is a coach or band director, the stipends can only be a couple thousand. If teachers are the ones who are required to prepare kids, then why wouldn't we pay them a significant amount of money for the tremendous responsibility put upon them?

3 Specifications

1. Teachers' base salaries for people with undergraduate degrees should be \$55,000.
2. Teachers' base salaries for people with graduate degrees should be \$60,000.
3. Teachers who work consecutively should get a \$ 3,000 raise every five years.
4. Teachers who work after hours, such as coaches and marching band directors, should automatically get a \$5000 stipend.

4 Funding

The education percentage of taxes should be raised from 3.26% to 5.26%.

5 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

6 This act shall become effective IMMEDIATELY upon/after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB017

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Zoey Hewitt,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Bank for the Broke

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Salary: a fixed regular payment, typically paid on a monthly or biweekly basis but often expressed as an annual sum, made by an employer to an employee

Pension: a regular payment made during a person's retirement from an investment fund to which that person or their employer has contributed during their working life.

Section II: Proposal

The proposal is to increase teachers' pensions and salaries. These will be raised to 5K a year for salary and 2K a year for pension.

Section III: Justification

Teachers just don't get paid enough for the things they deal with so they deserve more money.

Section IV: Consequences

The consequences of this bill would be teachers getting fairly paid and a potential increase in teachers. Another would be more money going towards teachers paychecks and less going towards the school systems as a whole.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the Alabama Treasury and police force.

Section VI: Payment

The money needed to pay the teachers rightful salary will come from alcohol taxes and funding from the Alabama defense fund.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB018

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Jackson Short,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: UAB and UAH Independence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Net income - the sum total of all revenue, expenses, debts, taxes, interest, and additional income for a given period

UA board of directors - ensure the effective leadership, management, and control over the activities of the three doctoral research universities in The University of Alabama System

Section II: Proposal

Release the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH) from the University of Alabama board jurisdiction, and create independent boards of directors for the former two universities.

Section III: Justification

Basic Numbers as of 2022:

Revenue:

UAB: \$4.36 Billion; UAH: \$236 Million; Tusc: \$946 Million

Net income:

UAB: \$120 Million; UAH: \$37 Million; Tusc: -\$55 Million

Economic Impact:

UAB: \$12.1 Billion; UAH: \$615 Million; Tusc: \$2.8 Billion

Employees:

UAB: 26,000; UAH: 3,100; Tusc: 7,200

Out of the 15 members on the UA board, 13 graduated from the University of Alabama, two graduated from UAB, and 0 have connections with UAH. UAB and UAH are two of the biggest contributors to the Alabama economy (UAB through healthcare and UAH through STEM), and they are overseen by directors who have no connection or experience with the universities. The UA board has often made decisions for the two that are unpopular within the universities. For example, many think that UA played an important role in the shutdown of the UAB football program in 2015 in order to attract more students to the University of Alabama. They also

rejected the original hire for the head coach of UAB football last year. UAB and UAH should be able to make decisions for themselves without being controlled by the athletic and business focused UA board.

Section IV: Consequences

UAB and UAH will be able to act autonomously and not be controlled by a completely unrelated board of directors. Both universities will be able to act more efficiently and with their own interests in mind.

Section V: Enforcement

There is no enforcement required.

Section VI: Payment

Payment will be decided by the individual universities. There is no payment burden on the state of Alabama.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB019

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Holland Warren,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Sound It Out

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

"Phonetic" or "phonic" approach refers to a method of teaching people to read by correlating sounds with letters or groups of letters.

"Whole word" or "sight word" approach refers to a method of teaching people to read by sight and relies upon memorization via repeat exposure to the written form of a word.

"3-cueing" approach refers to foundational skills instruction that involves the use of three different types of instructional cues: semantic (gaining meaning from context and sentence-level cues), syntactic or grammatical features, and grapho-phonetic (spelling patterns).

Response to intervention (RTI) is a multi-tier educational approach designed to identify students who require additional support and to provide them with appropriate interventions.

The Alabama Foundation Program is the formula that the state uses for funding each school district, calculates each district's budget based on student population and student grade level, which is a resource-based funding model, and determines the baseline funds that districts will receive for staffing & materials.

Section 2: Proposal

1. Prohibit the whole word approach in teacher training programs and the practice of whole word teaching in Alabama public school classrooms, and instead require all public schools and preschools to incorporate phonic skills within the context of a 3-cueing approach into their reading instruction programs.
2. Benchmark tests synchronized with the state testing schedule will be administered to facilitate an efficient Response to Intervention (RTI) framework and provide training for educators on utilizing benchmark data for targeted interventions.
3. Assure that Alabama colleges of education teach aspiring teachers of reading the five core components of reading instruction:
 - A. Phonemic Awareness
 - B. Phonics
 - C. Fluency
 - D. Vocabulary
 - E. Comprehension
1. Any jurisdiction or school district found to be in violation of this legislation shall lose federal funding until such time as compliance is reached.

Section 3: Justification

1. Alabama's illiteracy rate is growing now.

a. The National Assessment of Education Progress reading test found that 65% of all U.S. fourth graders scored “below proficient,” and the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) found the percentage of Alabama third graders reading on grade level decreased 2%.

b. In the United States, 14 percent of the adult population—a staggering 32 million adults—cannot read. Studies defend that literacy helps people escape the bonds of poverty and live longer, and that people who are literate are more inclined to vote, take part in their community, and seek medical help for themselves and their families. They’re also better equipped to take advantage of knowledge jobs.

2. Phonics are most useful when taught within the scope of a 3-cueing curriculum.

a. Kenneth Goodman, who developed the theory underlying the literacy philosophy of whole language, found a 60-80% improvement in reading accuracy when children read words in the context of a story rather than in a list format. He argued that the contextual cues provided marked assistance in word identification; however, if readers ignore or can’t understand the context clues, they will “miscue” or misidentify the word and meaning. Therefore, a hybrid approach of phonics instruction, semantic, syntactic, and grapho-phonics gives readers the skills necessary to problem-solve and comprehend the text.

3. The whole word approach is crippling new readers and writers.

a. WWA assumes that, with enough exposure to print material, children will discover the principles of reading and writing on their own. It’s true that children “discover” language through experience and social interaction. However, the fallacy in the “whole language” philosophy is that reading is simply a visual form of language. Reading is not language. Rather, it’s a decoding process that converts visual symbols into spoken language. Without explicit phonics training, the text remains indecipherable, and hence incomprehensible. Furthermore, explicit phonics training helps children with dyslexia gain some level of functional literacy.

b. Byrne & Fielding-Barnsley found in their 1992 study that when left to their own devices, children showed no evidence of inducing the alphabetic principle. They found reliable success on the transfer task was typically achieved only when children were trained such that they could (a) segment phonemes in spoken words and identify their initial phonemes and (b) recognize the graphic symbols that corresponded to the key sounds in the transfer task.

4. Explicit phonics training helps children with dyslexia gain some level of functional literacy.

5. The whole word approach hurts fluency.

a. Children that have been trained to hear the actual sounds that form words (phonemic /phonological skills) and are capable to recognize and store those common strings of sounds and visually link them to the letters / words they know become fluent readers. There is no evidence to suggest that visual memory (or “whole word approach”) has a role in word recognition/reading fluency once the letters and the connection between letters and sounds have been learned.

6. RTI can mitigate long-term academic challenges.

a. RTI allows educators to identify students who may be struggling with reading at an early stage. Through regular assessments and progress monitoring, teachers can pinpoint difficulties and provide targeted interventions promptly or suggest resources to parents such as speech pathology.

b. RTI can assist in determining whether a student needs special education services. Through the data collected during the intervention process, educators can make informed decisions about the appropriateness of special education referrals.

Section 4: Funding

On Dec.1, 2023 Alabama officials reported \$2.8 billion in excess tax collections from last year. An AL.com analysis found that in addition to the \$2.8 billion, over the past two years, lawmakers diverted \$1.5 billion away from an automatic transfer process designed to protect K-12 and higher education funding.

Of the 4.3 billion that weren’t used last year and the \$412 million put into the Educational Opportunities Reserve Fund, 15 billion will be allocated to the Alabama Foundation Program. The AFP may spend their budget on modifying collegiate instruction and sponsoring training courses for teachers.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start of the next school year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB020

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Ozark- Carroll High School

Author(s): Layla Ard,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: High School Transfer Portal

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

AHSAA - Alabama High School Athletic Association

NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association

Section II: Proposal

Require all public schools in the State of Alabama to grant students from 7th grade to 12th grade the privilege to transfer schools and remain eligible to participate in athletics without a one year penalty.

Section III: Justification

While many students opt to transfer schools due to bullying, better education opportunities, and more diverse athletic/extracurricular options. They are forced to sit out of school sports for a full calendar year. This is per the AHSAA Eligibility Rules. I think this is unfair because students typically transfer for a meaning that is better benefiting themselves. In 2021 the NCAA allowed a one time transfer without a one year penalty. Since college students typically attend the school that best fits them academically as well as athletically I believe it is only fair that high school students are given the same privilege. Especially when 7th-12th grade is preparing them for their future.

Section IV: Funding

No funding would be needed. Students/Families would be responsible for their own transportation.

Section V: Severability Clause

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VI: Enactment

This bill shall go into effect at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB022

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Kaitlyn Mertel,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An act to promote the health and safety of students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION 1:

Now more than ever before teens are abusing drugs both illicit and prescribed. Data published by the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics reports that at least one in every eight teenagers abused an illicit substance within the past year. Drug addiction can lead to poor grades, low self-esteem, memory challenges, attention deficits, and poor social skills.

SECTION 2:

This bill would help decrease the number of teens who abuse drugs as well as some of the drug-related issues in the school setting by requiring the implementation of spontaneous (random) drug testing in schools as part of a comprehensive approach to combating drug use. This approach involves 1) Deterrence (drug testing), 2) Support (counseling and referral), 3) Student Safety (identifying threats before they happen), and 4) Providing a healthy learning environment (decreasing the likelihood of violence, accidents, and academic decline).

SECTION 3:

The drug tests will be mandatory for students participating in extracurricular activities (as defined by the local school board) and will be offered to parents who may consent to the random testing of their student (whether they participate in extracurricular activities or not). Parental consent will be granted when parents and students sign the student code of conduct consent and acknowledgement form at the start of each school year. The local school boards of education will be responsible for the implementation of drug testing and other strategies to combat drug use by teens. There are many federal and state sources of funding for substance abuse programs.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB024

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Anna Beth Frazier,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Giving Them Their Right!

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Bigamy: the act of going through a marriage ceremony while already married to another person
- Theft: involve taking or attempting to take money or property without permission, but doesn't involve direct violence
- Class D Crimes: felonies are subject to the Presumptive Sentencing Guidelines, and therefore criminal history can have an effect on the actual terms of the sentence. Usually non-violent theft, fraud, possession of illegal substances, etc.

Section II: Proposal

This is an amendment to Section 17-3-30.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, and in turn, create an amended version of the Felony Voter Disqualification Act. This amendment would remove a part of the felonies listed in HB282 178796-3 from 2017. Once those crimes are removed, this would allow the criminals that were convicted of a nonviolent crime, listed below, be able to vote after they have served their sentence and are released.

The crimes that are listed that involve moral turpitude which would disqualify a person from voting are outlined in HB282.

The crimes that are being removed from that list and legislation discussed above are the following:

1. “ (7) Sodomy as defined in Sections 13A-6-63 and 13A-6-64.” with the exception of sodomy resulting from force, with a minor, or sexual assault (Lawrence v. Texas 2003).
2. “(20) Endangering the water supply as defined in 4 Section 13A-10-171.”
3. “(35) Trafficking in cannabis, cocaine, or other illegal drugs or trafficking in amphetamine and methamphetamine as defined in Section 13A-12-231.”
4. “(36) Bigamy as defined in Section 13A-13-1.” with the exception of bigamy resulting from force, trafficking rings, or sexual assault
5. “(40) Prohibited acts in the offer, sale, or purchase of securities as defined in Section 8-6-17.”
6. “(42) Theft of property as defined in Sections 15 13A-8-3 and 13A-8-4.”
7. “(43) Theft of lost property as defined in Sections 17 13A-8-7 and 13A-8-8.”
8. “(44) Theft of trademarks or trade secrets as defined 19 in Section 13A-8-10.4.”
9. “(46) Forgery as defined in Sections 13A-9-2 and 13A-9-3.”

Section III: Justification

The right to get married, have a family, own property, and buy alcohol is given back to all ex-felons, but the right to vote is not returned. Once someone is convicted of a crime and then incarcerated, they lose the right to vote. Which is understandable while they're in prison, the problem is that when they are released they are still deprived of their constitutional right. The crimes listed above would mostly fit into Class D crime, or nonviolent crimes, and yet their voting opportunities are still denied.

Amending the Felony Voter Disqualification Act added to Section 17-3-30.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975 will ensure that Americans who deserve their vote have the opportunity to exercise that crucial right.

In 2023, about 1.8 million men and women were incarcerated in the United States of America. In 2008, the US incarceration total peaked. These people did not harm anyone when they committed a crime, they did not murder, assault, or harass anyone. They should have the right to vote, because they are out of prison and into the world again, they have served their time, and gotten through their punishment. After they have gotten released from prison, they are treated as a normal citizen. Normal citizens have the right to vote, and so should an nonviolent ex-felon who has served their time in prison.

Some people may argue that children, non-citizens, immigrants, and people who are mentally incompetent can't vote. But for some reason, felons are put with that group. People don't trust convicted felons. But felons, who are convicted of the crimes listed above, Class D felonies, are people who made a wrong decision and they didn't directly hurt, mistreat or cause any pain to anyone. They have served their time and have already gotten their punishment, so they should also be able to vote. They have a right to vote.

In the past two years, some guidelines put in place to allow ex-felons to vote have slim requirements. As of now, in the state of Alabama, most ex-felons do not have a voice in politics. They are not allowed to have an opinion, but everyone, who is 18 or above, should be able to have a say in who runs the state and the country. According to the Fifteenth Amendment, the right to vote should not be "denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Section IV: Consequences

If this bill is passed through the legislature, then nonviolent convicted of the crimes above are able to vote and give their opinions on politics in the state of Alabama and the country. From the data of 2019, if all nonviolent offenders, released from prison, were allowed to vote around 5,740 more people of Alabama would be able to vote.

Section V: Enforcement

To enforce this bill, local officials at the polls would make certain that the ex-felon was charged with a nonviolent crime through a background check.

Section VI: Payment

By passing this bill, there will be no gain or expense in money.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB027

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): James Harden,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prohibition of Fees on Solar Panel Usage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Solar panels - devices used to absorb the sun's rays to generate electricity through photovoltaic effect, which are used in solar thermal systems and solar electric systems.

Fee - any charge or cost financially imposed on solar panel uses beyond standard electrical service charges.

Section II: Proposal

No entity, government or otherwise, shall impose fees upon any user of solar panels for the use of solar panels.

Section III: Justification

Alabama Power currently imposes a fee upon solar panel users of approximately \$21-\$36 per month, even if the solar panel users do not use any electricity from the utility. The State of Alabama should promote energy independence and encourage people to use renewable energy over non-renewable energy sources. Solar energy, as produced by solar panels, is a source of clean and renewable energy. Imposing fees on solar panel users acts as a deterrent by discouraging people from adopting solar technology and undermines efforts to promote efficient and renewable sources of energy. Alabama has a public interest in supporting individuals, homeowners and businesses who invest in solar energy as this promotes environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Section IV: Consequences

By prohibiting the imposition of fees upon solar panel users, Alabama homeowners and businesses will not be deterred from installing and using solar panels, but will be further encouraged to invest in solar panels. This promotes clean and sustainable energy.

Section V: Enforcement

Oversight and compliance shall be administered by the Alabama Public Service Commission. Any utility company or entity found in violation of this Act shall be required to reimburse any fees collected in violation of this Act, plus interest at 10% annually.

Section VI: Funding

This bill requires no funding.

Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act or provision are hereby repealed.

Enactment Clause

This Act should go into effect immediately upon passage.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB028

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Lily Johnson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Protection for Children of Influencers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Influencer: a person who is able to generate interest in something (such as a consumer product) by posting about it on social media

Trust: legal arrangements that allow individuals to place assets in a special account to benefit another person or entity

Section II: Background

Many influencers publish their children's lives, and their children help bring viewers to their content. For example, a family influencer might show a video of their kid playing with a toy as part of a brand deal with a company, or they might film their child getting their wisdom teeth out and post the video. Despite the child's prominence in their parents' content, many of these children do not receive a portion of their parents' revenue. Additionally, many social media accounts publish intimate details about their children on social media platforms. Children need a way to have a video they are featured in taken down if they are uncomfortable with it.

Section III: Proposition

If a minor is featured in 30% of revenue-generating content on a parent's social media platform, then that child must be compensated by having money set aside in a trust that a child can access at 18. The share of money that the child would receive would be decided on an individual basis by the parent. If a parent does not set money aside for the minor or the minor feels like they missed out on just compensation, then the minor will be given the right to sue their parents at 18. Additionally, children will be given the right to take down videos or photographs they are featured in if they are uncomfortable with what was published on social media.

Section IV: Justification

While being a child actor and being the child of an influencer may not seem that different, they are. Child actors have legislation that allows them to receive money. However, children of family influencers are often featured in their parent's content, yet they do not receive any compensation. If a child is featured in a brand deal, they should receive a portion of the earnings for their hard work. If a parent posts a video about their child having a bad day at school because they were bullied, they deserve to be compensated for that because they are sharing personal details about their lives and raising their views on their parents' content. Also, if a child grows up and is no longer ok with the content their parents posted about them in the past, they deserve

the right to take it down. Additionally, the money the children receive from the content they are featured in must be put in a trust because they need to be old enough to understand the value of money and how to spend it wisely. All in all, this bill must be passed to stop the exploitation of children of family influencers.

Section V: Implementation

This bill needs no funding because the children of influencers would enforce it. At 18, if the child was not compensated, they could sue their parents for the money they see fit for the time they were featured in the content. Additionally, it would be up to a child at 18 to sue their parents if the parents refuse to take down old videos that the child is uncomfortable with.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective immediately after the passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB031

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Sage Kaz, Katelyn Morgan

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Covering Infertility

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Infertility- the condition of an otherwise presumably healthy individual who is unable to conceive or sustain a pregnancy during a period of one year.
 - Iatrogenic infertility- an impairment of fertility by surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other medical treatment affecting reproductive organs or processes.
 - IVF- an egg is removed from a woman and sperm from a man; the egg is then fertilized in a lab, and the resulting zygote is implanted into the woman, known as in vitro fertilization.
 - IUI- putting specifically chosen sperm directly into the uterus normally after the woman has been taking ovulation medication, known as intrauterine insemination. (also called artificial insemination).
 - Infertility medications- medications to help promote fertility; there are medications for both men and women.
- Standard fertility-preservation services- means procedures consistent with established medical practices and professional guidelines published by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, or other reputable professional medical organizations.
 - Mandated coverage- required benefits to cover certain health conditions.
- Insurance premiums- the amount paid each month or year to keep the insurance premium.

Section II: Proposal

This will be modeled after Rhode Island Law 27-18-30, which has some of the best health insurance for infertility. This will cover any health maintenance organization service contract plan or policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state, except a contract providing supplemental coverage to Medicare or other governmental programs, that includes pregnancy-related benefits. It shall provide coverage for medically necessary expenses of diagnosis and treatment of infertility for women and men between the ages of twenty-five (25) and forty-two (42) years and for standard fertility-preservation services when a medically necessary, or for when medical treatment may directly or indirectly cause iatrogenic infertility to a covered person. The treatment of infertility includes IVF, IUI, medications, and other infertility treatments not stated here. The health insurance contract may limit coverage to a lifetime cap of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

Section III: Justification

Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia have coverage for

infertility. Infertility treatment costs, on average for women, \$5,894 for fertility medication, \$10,696 for IUI with Clomid, \$19,566 with FSH, \$61,377 with IVF, and \$72,642 for IVF with a donor egg. These procedures are not deemed “medically necessary” and are therefore not covered under multiple insurance plans. One of the beliefs about this not being covered is that it is mainly a women's health issue. According to New York’s financial services, the insurance premiums for New York would only have to increase 0.5%-1.1% if they raised their insurance premiums.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill will cause a slight rise in insurance premiums, but it should allow many women and men to have increased access to infertility medications and procedures.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the Department of Human Services.

Section VI: Payment

The insurance companies would cover this by raising insurance premiums. It will be a small raise, and the companies can cap coverage at \$100,000.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor’s signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB033

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Auburn-Auburn High School

Author(s): Elizabeth Thurow,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Touchdowns Without Tackles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Tackling: the intentional use of physical contact and force to arrest another player's movement, bring that player to the ground, and/or compel that player to lose possession of the ball.

Section II: Propositions

Tackling is hereby prohibited in public elementary and middle school sports in football, rugby, and any other activities where tackling is standard practice within the sport. The use of flags as a stand-in for tackling shall remain legal, and public and private leagues at all levels are encouraged to embrace this humane adaptation.

Section III: Justification

Banning tackling in football and rugby at the elementary and middle school levels is a measure aimed at safeguarding the well-being of young athletes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1.1 million children aged 6 to 12 suffer sports-related injuries annually in the United States, with a significant portion attributed to contact sports like football and rugby. Youth football players face a higher risk of injuries, including concussions, compared to their non-football playing peers. Furthermore, tackling-related injuries among middle school athletes are on the rise, underscoring the need for preventive action. Prohibiting tackling in these formative years allows children to develop fundamental skills, emphasizing teamwork and sportsmanship without exposing them to the inherent risks associated with contact. By prioritizing safety during crucial stages of physical development, we can create an environment that fosters a lifelong love for sports while minimizing the potential for long-term injuries.

Section IV: Enforcement/Funding

Any public school found to be allowing tackling sports without penalty shall be fined \$300 for each violation. This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Department of Education.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause.

This bill will come into effect August 1, 2024, after gaining approval from the Governor of Alabama



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB034

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Maryam Kazamel,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Opioid Crisis Response Act 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Opioids or Opiates refer to a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, pain relievers available legally by prescription, or any other drug or substance having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is a program created by the Alabama Department of Public Health under the Code of Alabama, 1975, § 20-2-210, et seq., authorized to establish, create, and maintain a controlled substances prescription database program.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist medication that is used to reverse an opioid overdose.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) refers to the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorder

Section 2: Proposal

1. **Treatment Funding:** Allocating funds specifically for expanding addiction treatment facilities, ensuring there are enough resources to meet the demand for rehabilitation services, particularly in rural communities
2. **Insurance Reform:** Require insurance providers to cover addiction treatment services comprehensively
3. **Prescription Monitoring Enhancement:** Strengthening and updating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, mandating healthcare providers to use it and ensuring timely reporting of controlled substance prescriptions.
4. **Education Mandates:** Introducing requirements for schools and healthcare providers to educate students and patients about the risks of opioid misuse and available resources for addiction treatment.
5. **Naloxone Access:** Facilitating broader access to naloxone by removing legal barriers, such as training programs, and creating distribution programs for first responders, community organizations, and individuals at risk.
6. **MAT Expansion:** Enacting measures to expand access to medication-assisted treatment, including eliminating barriers to prescribing medications like methadone or buprenorphine.
7. **Community Engagement Initiatives:** Funding and supporting community outreach initiatives that aim to reduce stigma, provide information, and encourage individuals struggling with addiction to seek help.

Section 3: Justification

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Alabama has the highest opioid prescription rate in the country with 97.5 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons. The US average is 51.4. Contrastingly,

Alabama has the lowest number of substance use and behavioral health counselors per capita, according to Mental Health America.

From 2006 through 2014 there were 5,128 deaths from overdoses in Alabama. The state's death rate per 100,000 in 2014 was 14.9. The number of overdose deaths climbed 82% from 2006 to 2014. In 2016 there were 741 overdose deaths attributed to an increase of 15.3 deaths per 100,000. The overdose deaths are not limited to opioids, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated prescription opioids and heroin account for most drug deaths.

A comprehensive bill to combat the opioid crisis in Alabama is crucial, particularly for its impact on rural areas. Rural communities often face unique challenges, such as limited access to addiction treatment services and healthcare facilities. This legislation aims to bridge these gaps by allocating resources to expand treatment facilities and enhance rural healthcare infrastructure. By bolstering prescription monitoring programs, improving education and awareness in these areas, and facilitating access to life-saving interventions like naloxone, the bill seeks to address the specific needs of rural residents. Overall, this legislation strives to create a more resilient and healthier rural Alabama, where individuals and families have the support and resources needed to overcome the opioid crisis.

Section 4: Funding

The US Department of Health and Human Services granted the Alabama State Department Of Mental Health \$16,267,833 to address the opioid crisis. Any remaining funding can be pulled from the General Fund appropriation for the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start of the next fiscal year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB035

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Madhumita Ravikumar,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Be Gay Don't Do Fraud: An Act to Implement Conversion-Free Care

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

1. SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Change Efforts: Commonly referred to as "conversion therapy" or "reparative therapy," are practices that aim to suppress or alter an individual's sexual orientation or gender to align with heterosexual orientation, cisgender identity, and/or stereotypical gender expression. SOGI change efforts are premised/motivated by the belief that diversity in sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression is a deficit, mental illness, or pathology. SOGI change efforts do not include gender-affirming care. They do not include counseling that facilitates acceptance, social support, or affirming exploration and development of one's sexual or gender identity.

2. Consumer Fraud: Deceptive business practices that cause consumers to suffer financial or other losses.

3. Medical Treatment: The management and care of a patient to combat disease or disorder.

Section 2: Proposal

1. Ban licensed behavioral health professionals from engaging in SOGI change efforts, and violation will result in the revocation of their license.

2. SOGI change efforts shall henceforth be categorized as consumer fraud, and unlicensed individuals conducting the practice will face a minimum fine of \$25,000 and other punishment depending on the severity of the case at the discretion of the judiciary.

3. Require medical professionals to undergo SAMHSA's LGBTQ+ cultural competency training as a part of maintaining their license, this training will count towards the minimum of 25 hours of continuing medical education annually required for license renewal.

Section 3: Justification

1. As policymakers, we must ensure equal access to quality mental health care, combat discrimination, and foster an environment that champions the well-being of all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. 47% of LGBTQ youth in Alabama have seriously considered suicide in the past year while 13% have actually attempted. Many health care professionals are not equipped to effectively treat vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth and a majority of medical school curricula include no information about LGBTQ+ issues. Queer people are unlikely to fully disclose the severity of their mental health problems to medical professionals they do not perceive to be LGBT-friendly. In fact, the possibility of being discriminated against or misunderstood is enough to deter the community from seeking treatment for their mental health concerns in the first place. Establishing LGBT-supportive cultural competency training programs for primary care providers is essential to

improving provider-patient relationships so that the community can feel comfortable seeking out the help they need.

2. Research indicates that sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts are not effective in forcing conformity. Furthermore, these efforts can cause significant harm, including suicide attempts and other negative behavioral health outcomes. No research supports the claim that these efforts are beneficial to children, adolescents, or families. According to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, variations in sexual orientation and gender expression represent normal and expectable dimensions of human development. They are not considered to be pathological; therefore, they are not included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and other accepted nosological systems. Medical treatment is done for the betterment of the patient, but conversion “therapies” do the very opposite, and therefore cannot be considered medicine. Additionally, since SOGI change efforts do not have their intended effect, any individual claiming to administer the “therapy” and yield heteronormative or gender conforming results is committing consumer fraud.

Section 4: Funding

1. This bill does not require funding as it is prohibiting a practice and the cultural competency training required can be obtained free of charge.

Section 5: Severance

1. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

1. This bill will become effective immediately upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming law



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB036

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Sandar Htwe,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Alabama Psychedelic Assisted Therapy Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Psychedelic-assisted therapy - the use of psychedelics practiced under the guidance of a trained clinician. The clinician administers a controlled amount of a psychoactive substance to induce a person into an altered state of mind/consciousness.

DMN - the part of the brain where the perceptions of selves are mostly curated, it is responsible for ruminating thoughts; People with conditions like depression, anxiety, ADHD, and OCD have a DMN that is overactive.

MDMA - Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly seen in tablet form and crystal form, is a potent empathogen-entactogen with stimulant properties primarily used for recreational purposes.

Psilocybin - the psychoactive compound in magic mushrooms

Section 2: Proposal

(1) The psychedelics will be used for therapeutic purposes to help people with PTSD, depression, and anxiety.

(2) A 2015 study found out that psilocybin-assisted therapy showed a decrease in drinking and reduced alcohol cravings.

(3) Psychedelic Assisted Therapy has a goal to help people with PTSD, depression, and anxiety. It will help PTSD patients with facing their trauma in a healthy way.

(4) There are clinical trials that demonstrate the long-term efficacy in the use of psychedelics to treat PTSD. A study found 54% of their patients not finding the criteria for following-up treatment. 23% of the participants no longer needed a follow-up. Psychedelics will be administered safely for a result like this one to help people with PTSD face their trauma.

(5) There will be guidelines that the clinician will be required to follow to administer the substances. (1) Therapists should have training and a certificate in psychedelic-assisted therapy and be certified by a professional organization. (2) Therapists must have Professional liability insurance. (3) Therapists must participate in continuing education programs to stay current on all new research. (4) Therapists must adhere to the ethical standards of the profession. (5) Therapists should have access to monitoring and supervision from other medical professionals who are experts in the field of psychedelic-assisted therapy.

(6) The use and possession of psychedelics will not be available to people with no certification in psychedelic-assisted therapy. They have to be trained in that area to be able to possess and administer the substances.

Section 3: Justification

(1) There should be more options for people with depression, PTSD, or anxiety to explore. In the state of Alabama the drug laws are strict. Therefore many citizens suffering from disorders do not have many options to treat their disorders. Psychedelic-assisted therapy can and will be able to help people with illnesses and behavioral disorders

(2) Self-treatment will not be legal. The use of psychedelics has to be under the supervision of a licensed clinician. The clinician will be administering the amount of substance that will enter the body of the patient.

(3) The results of all the studies can make it to the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) by next year or later this year.

(4) Without a patient's consent, clinics will not be able to disclose any information from their patient to help further research.

(5) There are therapeutic benefits of using psychedelics. There are numerous studies that confirm the high efficacy of treating disorders like depression, PTSD, and anxiety.

(6) Expanding research on psychedelics for illnesses and disorders help develop new treatments for a wide variety of psychiatric and behavioral disorders to tailor the specific needs of individual patients.

Section 4: Funding

(1) For government funding, the state government could allocate funds from the state budget to support the implementation of psychedelic-assisted therapy. This could include the funding for training and the development and maintenance of a regulatory framework for the therapy.

(2) The Alabama Department of Public Health should allocate funds for the regulation, licensure, and enforcement program, including fees and fines.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted upon being signed into law/upon earning a majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and approval of the president.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB037

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Amolika Mishra,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Only Lights Get Lit

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Alcohol: a colorless volatile flammable liquid that is produced by the natural fermentation of sugars and is the intoxicating constituent of wine, beer, spirits, and other drinks, and is also used as an industrial solvent and as fuel.

Section II: Proposition

This bill will ban the sale of alcoholic beverages on state religious holidays. The religious holidays considered are the holidays, where there is no work/school. This bill only bans the sale, not the consumption on these days.

Section III: Justification

Alcohol is something that is consumed widely among the people of Alabama. We should stop the sale of alcohol on religious holidays, for example Christmas and easter. These days are meant for spending time with family, friends, and loved ones, not to distract ourselves with alcohol.

Section IV: Severability Clause

Any Laws or parts of this law in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section V: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective January 1st 2025 upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB038

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Robert Gaines,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Alabama Mental Health Day Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definition

1.1. For the purpose of this act, a "Mental Health Day" is defined as a dedicated day within the academic calendar (1 Day of each school semester) where students (K-12) and staff focus on activities and programs promoting mental well-being, emotional resilience, and stress management.

Section 2: Proposal

- 2.1. This bill proposes the establishment of a Mental Health Day in all public and private schools across the state of Alabama.
- 2.2. The proposal encourages schools to collaborate with mental health professionals, community organizations, and experts to develop comprehensive programs for Mental Health Days.

Section 3: Justification

- 3.1. The need for this act arises from the increasing awareness of mental health challenges faced by students and educators.
- 3.2. A designated Mental Health Day aims to address these challenges by providing a supportive environment for mental health awareness, education, and self-care.

Section 4: Consequences

- 4.1. Schools failing to implement Mental Health Days may face a reduction in certain state funding or resources.
- 4.2. The consequences are intended to ensure compliance and underscore the importance of prioritizing mental health in the educational system.

Section 5: Enforcement

- 5.1. The Department of Mental Health shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of Mental Health Days.
- 5.2. Schools will be required to submit an annual report detailing the activities conducted on Mental Health Days and the participation levels.

Section 6: Funding

- 6.1. Adequate funding shall be allocated from the education budget to support the implementation of Mental Health Days.
- 6.2. Funds will be utilized for organizing workshops, guest speakers, counseling services, and related mental health initiatives.

Section 7: Conflicting Laws

7.1. This act shall supersede any conflicting laws that may hinder the implementation of Mental Health Days in schools.

Section 8: Enactment

- 8.1. This act shall be enacted at the beginning of the 2024-'25 academic year.
- 8.2. The Department of Education and the Department of Mental Health will collaborate to establish guidelines and provide support to successfully implement mental health activities

This bill aims to prioritize the mental well-being of Alabama's youth, recognizing the importance of mental health in fostering a supportive and conducive learning environment.

Youth Legislature Bill



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB039

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Patton Hahn,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: End the Overprescription Epidemic

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Opioid - a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and many others

Physician - a healthcare professional who has earned a medical degree, is clinically experienced and is licensed to practice medicine

Health insurance - an agreement in which an insurance company agrees to pay for some or all of a person's medical expenses in exchange for a monthly premium payment

Section II: Background

Pharmaceutical companies often engage in direct-to-physician marketing of opioids, spending \$39.7 million to do so from 2013 to 2015. It can include a variety of actions like traveling to the doctors to pitch to them the benefits of opioid drugs, advertising in medical magazines, or giving work-related gifts. These gifts can include but are not limited to paying for physicians' meals, travel costs, speaking fees, honoraria, or consulting fees.

Section III: Proposition

When a physician receives any amount of gifts exceeding \$100 from pharmaceutical companies that manufacture opioids, they will be placed on a register that health insurance companies will not be allowed to cover for any of their services for a period of 1 year. Additionally, if a pharmaceutical company is found to have given more than \$100 in gifts to more than 25 different physicians in a particular county, all the drugs that they produce will be barred from coverage from health insurance providers for a period of 3 years upon the last gift received.

Section IV: Justification

Alabama has more opioid prescriptions than people, and we rank highest in the nation when it comes to per-capita opioid prescriptions. Oversight is clearly lacking, but removing the financial incentive to prescribe murderous medication could save thousands. Study after study has proven that counties that received more industry marketing saw an increase in opioid prescribing—and experienced higher opioid overdose deaths.

Section V: Implementation

The Department of Insurance will receive \$6 million in FY24 from the \$600 million in discretionary funding that the Alabama Congress received from the \$2.2 billion surplus that education has generated.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB040

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Dothan- Northside Methodist

Author(s): Abigail Laseter,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Ban Flavored E-Cigarette Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

E-cigarette: battery-powered devices that work by heating a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales and exhales

Vape: another term for e-cigarette

Nicotine: an addictive substance found in e-cigarettes

Buyback: when a company buys its own outstanding shares to reduce the number of shares available on the open market

Outstanding shares: all the shares issued and sold by a company that are held by the company itself.

Section II: Proposal

All vape products that are to be sold in the United States must be sold under the following circumstances:

1. Gas stations and convenience stores may not sell candy and fruit flavored vapes but may sell other flavors that may not be considered as such. Ex: Tobacco, Alcohol, Menthol, Mint Flavors
2. Candy and fruit flavored vape may only be sold by licensed shops that specialize in selling e-cigarette products.
3. These shops must renew a license every 6 years to sell these products.
4. Video surveillance will be required in these shops to record any sales.

Section III: Funding

A tax of 8 cents for every e-cigarette sold will be implemented to directly fund the FDA and provide regular inspections and investigations.

A buyback will be issued for all e-cigarette companies to purchase these specific flavored products from any stores or shops that are qualified for licensing. A 10 percent tax will be issued for every 500 vape products that are bought back.

These proceeds will directly fund the FDA.

Section IV: Enforcement

Any stores not licensed or have an expired license found in violation of this act will be investigated and fined \$10,000.

Any offenses after this will result in the fine being doubled each time. Licensed shops are subject to regular investigations and licensing will be strictly enforced by the FDA.

Section V: This law shall take effect immediately upon its signing by the President or its otherwise becoming a law.

Section VI: All laws and parts in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB041

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Tyra Davis,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prohibition of Cash Bail

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Bail: the temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on condition that a sum of money be lodged to guarantee their appearance in court

Bail bondsman: a private salesman who posts bail on behalf of a defendant in return for a percent interest return.

Prohibition: the action of forbidding something, especially by law.

Money: any item or medium of exchange that people accept for the payment of goods and services and the repayment of loans.

Section II: Background

Depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the offense, all accused persons may "be bailable by sufficient sureties" under current Alabama law. Particularly in Alabama, a large number of offenders lack the financial means to post bail, forcing them to either wait out their incarceration until their court dates or rely on bail bonds to get out of jail five hundred twenty-six thousand people, or 62% of those incarcerated in the US, are presently awaiting trial after being found not guilty of any crime. Thirty and sixty days usually pass between the arraignment date and the prosecution. Approximately 16%, or 22,927, of the 140,206 crimes that were committed in 2019 were violent crimes like rape, assault, and murder; the remaining offenses were primarily made up of property crimes and drug charges.

Section III: Proposal:

This law aims to end cash bail altogether in the legal system of Alabama. A supervised release scheme would be implemented in place of cash bail. Under supervised release, social workers from government or nonprofit organizations visit offenders' homes regularly to remind them of court dates and pertinent trial information. In addition to face-to-face communication, public defenders and their clients could communicate via two-way text messaging services like Uptrust, a nonprofit organization with impending court dates. Judges decide whether to hold or release suspects in cases involving more severe and violent crimes.

Section IV: Justification

The United States' present cash bail system needs to be revised unrevised. Even if two people are charged with the same offense, low-income people are far less likely than their wealthy counterparts to be able to afford their bail payment because bail is set solely on a single element, such as the seriousness of the crime. Due to this, a large number of defendants turn to bail bonds in an attempt to make ends meet. These bonds

require a 10-15% down payment on the bail cost, which is still significant for many defendants. Detaining innocent people also contributes to the ongoing issues with Alabama's justice system. According to a case study conducted in Houston, within 18 months of the initial bail hearing, pretrial detention resulted in a 30% increase in felonies and a 20% increase in misdemeanors. 82% of all jail suicides in the country happen to inmates who are not yet convicted. Additionally, by holding innocent people without conviction, you are making it impossible for them to find employment and support their families or make regular payments, which will lead to an increase in the number of property crimes that are committed in the future. With a 91% presence rate for planned court dates, the introduction of supervised release has virtually no negative impact on the percentage of defendants appearing in court. Furthermore, since Alabama wouldn't have to accommodate the unconvicted prisoners in the already overcrowded jail system, it saves the state money. Likewise, because many who would have been imprisoned in the past may now perform their regular jobs and participate actively in the economy, it would strengthen the economy, lower unemployment, and lessen poverty. This bill merely makes the American ideal of "innocent until proven guilty" apply to all citizens equally, regardless of income, because incarcerating people based solely on their poverty seems to equate guilt with poverty and does not affect the number of people convicted or the number of crimes committed between trial periods.

Section V: Implementation

To carry out the provisions of this measure, nonprofit organizations managed or sponsored by the government must be established under the Alabama Department of Justice. These organizations must employ social workers to conduct the regularly scheduled visits. Based on the seriousness of the offense and the possibility of flight risk, the frequency of these visits would be ranked from 1 (about once a month) to 5 (a few times a week), with 1 representing the least severe crime and five the most serious. Presuming the clients have long-distance communication, the messaging platform must be installed on the client's home phone as the public defender's mobile phone. For defendants with a history of missing court appearances, including those charged with serious crimes in court, judges may decide whether or not to hold defendants based on case facts brought by the state during pretrial arraignment.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act at this moment are repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act will become effective on January 1st, 2025, upon the governor's approval; otherwise, it will become law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB042

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Ozark- Carroll High School

Author(s): Julie Nguyen, Tenley White

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Heartache Compensations Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Orphan - a child whose parents are dead

Murderer - a person who commits a murder; a killer

Homicide - the killing of one person by another

Section II: Proposal

Require offenders guilty of first, second, and third degree murders of a parent or parents of a child under 18 years of age to make monthly payments to the order of each child affected by the loss of their parent or parents until the child reaches legal age. Immediately following conviction the total net worth of the offender will be taken into account, in which their monthly payment will be calculated. 0.5% of the murderer's net worth at the time of conviction will be paid to the order of each child every month for each parent murdered if applicable. These monthly payments will continue until the child reaches 18 years of age.

Section III: Justification

Each year in the United States, thousands of children and adolescents are orphaned by violence. These orphans lose their parent/s spontaneously and unnaturally as a result of homicide, suicide, war, disaster, and sudden death accidents. According to a study by Barbara Parker and Richard Steeves at the University of Virginia, it is estimated that homicide of either one or both parents affect over 3,000 children in the US annually. With the exact number being difficult to contrive due to some police reports failing to mention the children of homicide victims.

Losing a parent as a child is a nightmarish experience. The loss of a parent or parents who unconditionally love their child will change their child's entire world and future. Homicidal violence meaninglessly replaces the delicate love, care, and financial support from a parent to their child with hardships, struggles, and grief. Children suffering from parental homicide can suddenly become burdens to neighbors and relatives, all to no fault of their own.

"....." is a bill that cannot recover a lost parent or parents, but instead provides young victims of homicide with an added form of financial support through their journey of grief.

Section IV: Funding

No funding necessary to enact this bill.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or legislation in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment

This bill shall go into effect immediately after its passage and signing by the governor, or it is otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB043

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Brielle Ballard, Taija Edward

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Permitless Carry Act Repeal

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- (a) Permitless Carry Act: Refers to the existing legislation allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons without the requirement of obtaining a permit, as enacted by [cite the specific legislation and date].
- (b) Repeal: The nullification and revocation of the Permitless Carry Act, rendering it void and no longer legally applicable.
- (d) Transition Period: The designated timeframe during which individuals currently carrying concealed weapons without a permit under the Permitless Carry Act may continue to do so without facing legal penalties. The grace period for applying for and obtaining necessary permits is also included in this definition.
- (e) Concealed Carry Permit: A permit issued by the relevant authorities allowing an individual to carry a concealed weapon, subject to specified eligibility criteria, background checks, and training requirements.
- (f) Grace Period: The period following the effective date during which individuals carrying concealed weapons without a permit under the Permitless Carry Act may apply for and obtain the necessary permits without facing immediate legal consequences.
- (g) Existing Law: Refers to the body of legislation and regulations in force prior to the repeal of the Permitless Carry Act, including all relevant statutes related to concealed carry permits.

Section II: Proposal

- (a) The Permitless Carry Act, as enacted by January 1, 2022], is hereby repealed.

Section III: Justification

The foremost concern driving the repeal of the Permitless Carry Bill is the potential compromise of public safety. Permitless carry removes the mandatory background checks and training requirements, creating a scenario where individuals with inadequate firearm knowledge or questionable backgrounds can legally carry concealed weapons. Repealing this bill would help reinstate crucial safeguards, ensuring that those who carry firearms are properly trained and meet established eligibility criteria.

Repealing the Permitless Carry Act is expected to contribute to a decrease in firearm-related incidents. By reinstating the requirement for background checks and mandatory training, the state can ensure that only responsible and law-abiding citizens have access to concealed carry permits. This approach aligns with proven strategies in other states that have demonstrated a positive correlation between stringent firearm regulations and reduced gun violence. A permitless carry system may inadvertently encourage irresponsible firearm ownership. The repeal of the current legislation aims to reinforce the importance of responsible gun

ownership by requiring individuals to undergo proper training and background checks before obtaining a concealed carry permit. This approach is in line with promoting a culture of safety and responsibility among firearm owners.

Section IV: Severance

- (a) The repeal of the Permitless Carry Act shall be effective [insert effective date] and shall be accompanied by a transition period lasting [insert duration], during which individuals currently carrying concealed weapons without a permit under the Permitless Carry Act may continue to do so without facing legal penalties.
- (b) Individuals currently carrying concealed weapons without a permit under the Permitless Carry Act shall have a grace period of [insert duration] following the effective date to apply for and obtain the necessary permits under the reinstated permit system without facing immediate legal consequences.
- (c) The relevant sections of the existing law pertaining to concealed carry permits shall be amended to reflect the repeal of the Permitless Carry Act.
- (d) Necessary modifications shall be made to ensure consistency with the reinstated permit system and to address any potential conflicts with other statutes or regulations.

Section V: Effective Date

The repeal of the Permitless Carry Act shall be effective upon approval.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB044

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hartselle

Author(s): Mary Frances Itsede,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Build Back Alabama Prisons Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Correctional Officer: Guard people in penal institutions and guard those in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other points.

Correctional Facility: Jail, prison, or other detention facility used to house people who have been arrested, detained, held, or convicted by a criminal justice agency or a court.

Section II: Background

In 2022, the ADOC reported 274 correctional facility deaths—the most ever recorded in a single calendar year. Alabama's prisons have nearly 12,000 more inmates than what they were designed to hold, contributing to the nation's highest inmate to prison staff ratio: 3 inmates for each correctional officer. Some facilities are severely overcrowded, peaking at 329 percent

Section III: Proposition

With the amended terms, to complete the correctional officer training course and be certified by the commission, the trainee must:

1. Score of not less than 80% on written exams
2. Score of not less than 90% on the first aid exam
3. Pass 50 hours of handgun training
 - a. Pass with 1-2 attempts on the handgun firearm course
4. Serve 14 weeks of training at the Alabama Correctional Office
5. Serve a 6 month probationary period in a correctional facility

To apply as a correctional facility guard, the qualification are amended as:

1. You must be 21 years old to apply
2. Have graduated high school, or having a General Education Development (GED) certificate
3. Possess a valid Alabama drivers license

Section IV: Justification

With the state's incarceration rate being the sixth highest in the nation, it is only just to have incarceration facilities being sanitary, updated, and staffed with qualified officers. In 2022, Alabama prisons had a mortality rate of 1,293 deaths per 100,000—raising concern and protests by correctional guards themselves. Continually ignoring the humanitarian crisis in Alabama prisons will only lead to further corruption from guards, extreme spikes in prisoner deaths, and risk the safety of every individual in these facilities.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Corrections in conjunction with the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles will oversee the technicalities and enforcement of this legislation. The Department of Justice will fund this legislation.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB045

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Justin Howard,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prohibiting Gender Reassignment For Trans Youth

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I- Definitions

Transexual-Denoting or relating to a transgender person who has undergone gender reassignment.

Gender reassignment-The process (typically involving a combination of surgical procedures and hormone treatment) undertaken by a transgender person in order to alter their physical sexual characteristics to match their gender identity.

Gender-affirming surgery- A surgical procedure, or series of operations, that alters a transgender or transsexual person's physical appearance and sexual characteristics to resemble those associated with their identified gender

Hormone therapy- Treatment that adds, blocks, or removes hormones.

Genital reconstruction- An umbrella term that includes several procedures that tamper, creates, or replaces a reproductive organ.

Feminizing vaginoplasty-A gender-affirming, feminizing, lower surgery to create a vagina and vulva (including mons, labia, clitoris, and urethral opening) and remove the penis, scrotal sac, and testes.

Masculinizing phalloplasty-Bottom surgery may involve removing the uterus, ovaries, and vagina. It can include creating a penis and scrotum.

Metoidioplasty-Lower body surgery that creates a penis by cutting ligaments around the erectile tissue to release it from the pubis and give the shaft more length.

Masculinizing chest surgery- Involves mastectomies and repositioning/reshaping of the nipple and areola to create a masculine contour and appearance to the chest.

Facial feminization procedures-A broad range of procedures to change the shape of the face to look feminine.

Examples include having the hairline moved to create a smaller forehead, having lips and cheekbones augmented, or having the jaw and chin reshaped and resized.

Reduction of thyroid chondroplasty-Reduction of the adam's apple, performed in trans women to achieve a more feminine appearance of the neck.

Voice surgery-Surgery raises the pitch of your voice, making it sound higher. The procedure changes the length, tightness, or size of your vocal cords.

Section II Proposition

1. Any business or corporation incorporated or doing business in the State of Alabama is hereby prohibited from performing any of the procedures enumerated in subsection 2 of this section, provided said procedures are conducted for the purpose of transitioning from one gender to another for anyone under the age of 19, .

2. Gender reassignment surgery, gender-affirming surgery, or any other surgical process that includes any of the following procedures: hormone therapy, genital reconstruction, feminizing vaginoplasty, masculinizing phalloplasty/scrotoplasty, metoidioplasty, masculinizing chest surgery, facial feminization procedures, reduction thyroid chondroplasty, and voice surgery.
3. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of this section, procedures enumerated in subsection 2 of this section shall be permitted for people born intersex or in case of a medical emergency.

Section III Consequences

1. Any business or corporation that violates section II of this Act shall be fined no less than \$60,000 and no more than \$200,000 per violation.
2. A physician or surgeon who violates section II of this Act shall be guilty of a class D felony. A person guilty of said offense shall be imprisoned for up to 2 years, but in no case, less than 1 year, and shall have their licenses to practice medicine or osteopathy in the state of Alabama revoked. This will be enforced by the Alabama AOC and the Medical Licensure Commission.

Section IV- Conflicting laws

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section V- Enactment

This act shall take effect immediately after its passage and signing by the governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB046

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Abigail Frank,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Minimum Gun Permit Age

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Firearm - a rifle, pistol, or other portable gun

Section II: Proposal

- This bill will establish the minimum age requirement for the purchasing, possession and permit of all firearms to 25 years of age in the state of Alabama. This age requirement will not apply to members of law enforcement agencies or military organizations.

Section III: Justification

- In 2021, the firearm death rate in Alabama was 26.4 per 100,000 people with 1,315 deaths. With Alabama having the 4th-highest rate of gun violence in the U.S, firearms are the leading cause of death among children and teens. The accessibility of firearms made to the public is a reoccurring matter that needs to be revised. For both men and women, the full development of the brain is complete at around the age of 25. Therefore, it is crucial that one should not be able to possess or attain a permit to legally own a gun in the preceding years (of 25) in which their brain is still developing.

Section IV: Consequences

- This bill will establish gun control and reduce gun casualties
- It will reduce the accessibility of guns to those under the age of 25

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

Section VI: Payment

- There will be no additional costs to implement this bill
- The state's general funds for law enforcement and public safety will cover actions taking place such as ensuring compliance, the conduction of investigations, and any other arising conflicts in the matter.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB048

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Annabelle King,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: You Can't Pray Away the Gay

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Conversion Therapy: the practice of attempting to cause a non-heterosexual person to become heterosexual by using psychoanalysis, behavior modification, spiritual counseling, etc.
 - LGBTQIA+
- Lesbian: a woman who is sexually or romantically attracted exclusively to other women; a gay woman.
 - Gay: sexually or romantically attracted to people of one's own sex (used especially of a man).
- Bisexual: sexually or romantically attracted to both men and women, or to more than one sex or gender.
- Transgender: denoting or relating to a person whose gender identity does not correspond with the sex registered for them at birth.
- Queer: denoting or relating to a sexual or gender identity that does not correspond to established ideas of sexuality and gender, especially heterosexual norms.
- Nonbinary: denoting, having, or relating to a gender identity that does not conform to traditional binary beliefs about gender, which indicate that all individuals are exclusively either male or female.
 - Genderfluid: denoting or relating to a person who does not identify as having a single unchanging gender.
- Intersexual: a person or animal having both male and female sex organs or other sexual characteristics.
 - Asexual: experiencing no sexual feelings or desires; not feeling sexual attraction to anyone.
 - Aromantic: experiencing little or no romantic attraction to anyone; not having romantic feelings.
 - Pansexual: sexually or romantically attracted to people regardless of their sex or gender.
- Two-Spirit: to a person who identifies as having both a masculine and a feminine spirit, and is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity.
 - Androgynous: partly male and partly female in appearance; of indeterminate sex.
- Sexual Orientation: a person's identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are sexually attracted; the fact of being heterosexual, homosexual, etc.
- Sexuality: An individual's sexual feelings, thoughts, attractions and behaviors towards other people.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will ban the practice of conversion therapy in the state of Alabama. It will shut down any establishments that take part in this practice. The primary goal of the proposed legislation is to protect individuals from the potential physical and psychological harm associated with conversion therapy. By

explicitly banning the practice, we aim to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Section III: Justification

Conversion therapy is a horrific and cruel practice to try and change something an individual cannot control. Such practices have been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades, but due to continuing discrimination and societal bias against LGBTQ people, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and conversion therapy can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide.

Arguments that say that the sexual orientation of an individual can be changed through these “therapies” have been proven false and show that the only thing the conversion therapy can statistically show is that it inflicts harm on all of the individual's physical and mental state.

A 2018 study by The Family Acceptance Project found that:

1. Rates of attempted suicide by LGBTQ+ young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation were more than double (48%) the rate of LGBTQ+ young adults who reported no conversion experiences (22%).
2. Suicide attempts nearly tripled for LGBTQ+ young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation (63%).
3. High levels of depression more than doubled (33%) for LGBTQ+ young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation compared with those who reported no conversion experiences (16%) and more than tripled (52%) for LGBTQ+ young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation.
4. Sexual orientation change experiences during adolescence by both parents/caregivers and externally by therapists and religious leaders were associated with lower young adult socioeconomic status, less educational attainment, and lower weekly income.

Every major medical and mental health organization has condemned the use of conversion therapy. None consider conversion therapy effective in changing sexual orientation or support its use to alter gender identity.

This practice is cruel and is proven to not have any effect other than causing harm.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill will have no consequences, it will actually improve the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals in the state.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Public Health would enforce this bill and if it were to be found that individuals were continuing to practice this therapy” they could be charged on the grounds of harassment and assault. Along with having their medical license revoked.

Section VI: Payment

This bill requires no funding for being in place.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor’s signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB049

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Makayla Green, Amarie Walls

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Helping Hands for Families Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: The purpose of this legislation is to ensure women and minor children residing in temporary housing facilities (shelter) are provided child care supervision and provisions.

Section 2: Child Care: Care for children, especially that provided by either the government, a shelter/temporary housing, or a person while parents are at work or are absent for another reason.

Mandatory: Required by law or rules; compulsory.

Minor (child): Children who fall within the 0-14 age range.

Shelter: A type of homeless service agency which provides temporary residence for homeless individuals and families.

Section 3: The intent of this Legislature is to provide "mandatory" child care services . statewide, in temporary housing facilities (shelter's) that are specifically for women and their minor children. Providing such services will allow working mothers to search for and. or to continue their employment without interruption. The goal is to provide some form of normalcy to both mother and child while living in temporary housing facilities. With the passage of this Legislation, daily child care services will be provided to children ages 0-14 in all women's and children's shelters located throughout Alabama. Shelter staff and volunteers will provide supervision that will include basic educational services,tutoring and various structured activities. Nutritious snacks and meals will be provided in accordance with USDA regulation and guidelines.

Section 4: Funding to establish said child care facilities:

The start up and annual cost for all 33 shelters as provided by the State of Alabama: Start up cost: \$282,000/33 shelter's=\$8,445.45 per child care facility. This will cover needed resources such as furniture, books, computers and educational resources. Annual Cost:\$165,000/33 shelter's= \$4,848.48 per child care facility. Source of Funding: Alabama Public Welfare Trust Fund via increasing tax revenue of intoxicating alcohol and cigarettes by 3- 5%.

Section 5: Shelters and child care facilities must adhere to all established regulations governed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Non compliance with state Legislation will be enforced in accordance with regulations of the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

Section 6: All law and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provisions of it are hereby repealed .

Section 7: This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB050

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Micah Breland,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Minimum Wage, Maximum Opportunity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- MINIMUM WAGE - The lowest remuneration that an employer is allowed to pay their employees and the price floor below which employees may not sell their labor
- CITY COUNCIL - The official legislative body of a recognized municipality
- COUNTY COMMISSION - The official legislative body of a county

Section II: Proposal

This bill allows any municipality within the state of Alabama to set a minimum wage that applies to all businesses operating within the municipality. This will be determined by the city council or equivalent of the municipality. Any ordinance or proposal containing a minimum wage or minimum wage change should follow the standard procedures by which the municipality passes and approves legislation.

This bill also allows any county within the state of Alabama to set a minimum wage that applies to all businesses operating within that county. Any ordinance or proposal containing a minimum wage or minimum wage change should follow the standard procedures by which the county passes and approves legislation.

Any minimum wage set by a county commission or city council does not need to be approved by the Alabama Legislature or the Local Legislation Committee to which the county or municipality is assigned.

There is no minimum or maximum for a city or county's minimum wage.

All businesses operating within the state of Alabama must be in compliance with the following:

1. The federal minimum wage,
2. The state of Alabama minimum wage (should one exist),
3. The minimum wage set in the county in which the business is operating (if that county has set a minimum wage), and
4. The minimum wage set in the municipality (if that municipality has set a minimum wage).

Section III: Justification

Currently, Alabama has no state minimum wage, and cities and counties are not able to set minimum wage laws. This leaves all of Alabama susceptible to the federal minimum wage, which is outdated and applies broadly to the entire country. This bill will return control to local cities and counties. These local government bodies will be given the power to set a minimum wage for their community that reflects their knowledge of the area in which they live. This is a much better solution than simply relying on Congress to set a federal minimum wage.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, minimum wages in the state of Alabama will be a reflection of the area in which they are in effect, and local governments will have the power to ensure their citizens are paid fairly.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Labor will be responsible for enforcing this law. The Department of Labor will be responsible for keeping an updated list of minimum wages for local jurisdictions and providing this information to businesses publicly.

Section VI: Payment

Any Business found to be in violation of this law will be subject to a fine of \$200,000 per violation, plus backpay awarded to all employees who were mispaid. A warning may be issued for the first or second offense subject to the discretion of the investigating officer. Any funds generated from fines will go toward the general fund budget for the following year.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB051

Committee: 2

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Alberto Zayas,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Minimum Wage Increase

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Minimum Wage- the lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement
- tax- a compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by the government on workers' income and business profits, or added to the cost of some goods, services, and transactions.
- Inflation- a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.

Section II: Proposal

- This bill increases the minimum wage in Alabama by \$6.75 making it \$14 an hour.

Section III: Justification

- Many adults unfortunately can only work a minimum wage job for whatever reason and \$7.25 is not a liveable wage in any way, assuming they work full time 40 hours a week, that comes to around \$580 dollars in two weeks, \$1,160 a month, and \$15,000 a year, not including getting taxed. With how much prices have risen due to inflation only in the past couple years, this is unlivable in every way you look at it.

Section IV: Consequences

- Expected outcome, if passed, would be increased wages

Section V: Enforcement

- The U.S Department of Labor.

Section VI: Payment

- Corporations and businesses will pay for this

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB052

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Eli McCay,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Changing the Counseling Ratio

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I. Definitions

- School Counselor - "a professional relationship in which individuals meet to seek advice, information and/or deliberation to address a student's need."

Section II. Proposal

If this bill is enacted, it will change the ratio for counselors in Alabama schools from 1:500 students to 1:300 students for all students grades 6-12, while keeping the 1:500 for grades K-5. This means we would raise the number of counselors in Alabama to roughly 2480.

Section III. Justification

Currently, a ratio of one counselor for every five hundred students is outrageous for students in grades 6-12, especially since Alabama is operating with an excess of funds for schools. This means the state can pay for more counselors but chooses not to do so. This bill's goal is to alleviate stress from our current counselors, as well as helping to combat the mental health crisis that is rampant in our state and our schools.

Section IV. Consequences

This will hopefully cause our current counselors to be less stressed as they will have fewer individual students to deal with.

Section V. Enforcement

Enforcement will be carried out by the Department of Education.

Section VI. Payment

This bill will be paid for by Alabama's 2.8 billion dollar surplus in the education budget. The vast majority of which has no definite place where it is going.

Section VII. Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII. Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB053

Committee: 3

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Kevin Juarez,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A FUTURE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Nuclear Power- electric or motive power generated by a nuclear reactor.

Section II: Proposal

Because people won't do anything to help the global warming crisis, this bill will require the State of Alabama to build more nuclear power plants. Building the power plants would be cheaper and safer for the state. Additionally, this bill would replace most of Alabama's natural gas power plants. To summarize, the bill would help improve our climate change situation. Under the circumstance that this bill is in with the total cost of replacing a power plant, a vote will be taken to decide how much power plants would be replaced.

Section III: Justification

Replacing the current power would make the environment healthier because it wouldn't use carbon emissions. It would also be much cheaper to make nuclear power plants than Natural gas.

Section IV: Consequences

The outcome of this bill would be an increase in nuclear power plants. It would also show a decrease in money spent on electricity bills. It should also replace most power plants in Alabama with nuclear power.

Section V: Enforcement

Alabama Power will be enforced with this bill. Alabama Power has to replace most of its energy with nuclear energy. They would replace their natural gas power plants with nuclear power plants.

Section VI: Payment

This bill would allocate money from the power bill and would be a ten-dollar increase. Depending on the vote, the estimated cost for this bill would be 1 billion to 20 billion dollars.

Section VII: conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB054

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Catherine Sizemore,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Medical Aid Should Not Cost an Arm And a Leg

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Universal healthcare: All people have access to the full range of quality health services, when they need them, without financial hardship.
- Medicaid: Medicaid provides medical benefits to groups of low-income people, some of whom may have no medical insurance or inadequate medical insurance. It is a joint program between the federal government and individual states.
- Basic medical needs: "Medically necessary" refers to healthcare services and supplies essential for diagnosing, and treating illnesses, injuries, or conditions, and meeting recognized medical standards for effective care.

Inpatient services covered by Medicare (federal health plan separate from state-run Medicaid):

- Hospital care
 - Skilled nursing facility care
 - Hospice care
- Outpatient services covered:
- Wellness exams
 - Preventive screenings
 - Certain vaccinations, including flu shots
 - X-rays
 - Lab tests
 - Mental health services
 - Certain prescription drugs

Section II: Proposal

- This bill will make basic medical needs universally accessible to all residents of AL. A new organization will be created by absorbing AL Medicaid. The goal is to achieve a system similar to the successful ones in a majority of Western Europe. Most notably, the National Healthcare system in the United Kingdom provides all British citizens with free public healthcare. Their system is designed to eliminate unemployment, poverty, and illness. This new form of Medicaid (essentially) will cover all basic medical needs through already provided funding from the federal government and a small percentage of tax payments. It will cover basic emergency medical

services and ambulance costs as well. This system in Alabama will be run by the AL Medicaid Agency and the AL Department of Public Health.

Section III: Justification

- This bill is necessary because the current system of privately insured healthcare is costly and unavailable to the majority of the public, specifically those who need it. This new system will provide health coverage for everyone because money shouldn't hinder people from getting the medical help they need.

Section IV: Consequences

- One consequence of the universal healthcare system that keeps some from wanting to implement it is the effect on wait times. The wait times are lengthened because multiple people need services simultaneously, yet no one takes precedence over others. This means you could have to wait a while for a procedure or an appointment. Although studies show that these wait times do not differ from the wait times for procedures and appointments in the US.

Section V: Enforcement

- This system will be run and enforced by the AL Medicaid Agency and the Alabama Department of Public Health

Section VI: Payment

- This new healthcare system will be covered by the funding already provided for Medicaid by the federal government(70%) and the tax money set aside for Medicaid by the Executive Budget Office of AL(30%). Unnecessary procedures like IVF and cosmetic procedures will not be covered.

Section VII: Conflicting laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming a law



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB055

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Roni Keene,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Green Light Red Light: Making the Oldest Profession New Again

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Brothel: a house where people can visit prostitutes.
- Pornography: printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings.
- Prostitution: the practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activity with someone for payment.
- STI: sexually transmitted infection.
- Special revenue fund: county funds that are used for roads, human services, health, municipal services, aging, tourism, redevelopment, and mass transit.

Section II: Proposal

The primary purpose of this bill is to legalize and regulate prostitution in the form of private brothels in the state of Alabama. Permits, background checks, and a clean bill of health (ownership permit exempt from health checks) shall be required to work at or own one of these establishments. Brothel ownership permits cost \$40,000 up-front and must be renewed yearly for \$75,000 in order for the business to continue practicing. Any profits acquired by the business are subject to federal income tax, any local fees, state income tax, and state entertainment tax. The brothels must have regular health screenings paid for by the owner of the brothel - weekly testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia, and monthly for HIV and syphilis. Clients of these establishments shall sign up once with a valid form of ID and be given a unique identification card to maximize anonymity between worker and client. Appropriate preventative measures would be taken to minimize the risk of STIs or pregnancy. Sex workers are not permitted to work for more than three hours at a time without a break lasting a minimum of one hour. In order to mitigate risk of sex trafficking, brothels must undergo regular audits and inspections.

Section III: Zoning

1. No brothel shall be established within two miles of any area zoned for any residential use.
2. No brothel shall be established within a radius of two miles of any school, library, or teaching facility, whether public or private, governmental or commercial, which school, library or teaching facility is attended by persons under eighteen years of age.
3. No brothel shall be established within a radius of two miles of daycare homes, group daycare homes, or childcare centers.
4. No brothel shall be established within a radius of two miles of any church, synagogue, mosque, or permanently established place of religious services.

5. No advertisements, displays, or other promotional material shall be shown or exhibited so as to be visible to the public from pedestrian sidewalks or walkways, or from other public areas, semi-public areas, or quasi-public areas.
6. All building openings, entries, and windows for adult uses shall be located or covered in such a manner as to prevent a view into the interior from any public areas, semi-public areas, quasi-public areas, any sidewalk or any street. For new construction, the building shall be oriented so as to prohibit any possibility of viewing the interior from any public areas, semi-public areas, quasi-public areas, any sidewalk, or any street.
7. No screen, speakers, or sound equipment shall be used for adult motion picture theaters that can be seen or discerned by the public from any public areas, semi-public areas, quasi-public areas, any sidewalk, or any street.

Section IV: Justification

Prostitution has been present in all cultures and civilizations, and it has never been successfully eradicated through legislation. It will and does happen regardless of legality. Because of this, legalizing and regulating it is the best method to ensure that everyone involved is safe and treated fairly.

Section V: Consequences

Increased federal revenue from the taxes on sex work, as well as increased rates of human trafficking that would need to be immediately mitigated (hence the background checks, permits, audits, and inspections).

Section VI: Enforcement

The Departments of Labor and Revenue shall oversee regulation.

Section VII: Payment

This bill would make the government a not insignificant amount of money through taxes, which would be deposited into the general fund. Any medical costs covered by the government would quickly pay for themselves, but initial costs would be paid for through the county special revenue fund.

Section VIII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section IX: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB066

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Zoharis Hernandez-Diaz,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Keys to Dignity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Government-funded housing- Housing that's paid for by the government

Section II: Proposal

To have government-funded housing and health insurance paid for the homeless. Because we spend \$3,700 for each hospital visit; that's \$18,500 spent per year for the average person and \$44,400 spent per year for the highest users of emergency departments. People struggling with homelessness spend, on average, 3 nights per visit in the hospital which can cost over \$9,000. The state has to pay for their healthcare for each day they stay and this bill would not only be cheaper for the state but it would also help homeless people with being less susceptible to getting sick and have healthier living conditions. They do have to do some volunteer work every month or work at a job to live at the government-funded housing.

Section III: Justification

It is not only cheaper for the state but it will also help the homeless and to get them rehabilitated as contributing members of society.

Section IV: Consequences

No consequences this is just a privilege

Section V: Enforcement

No enforcement this is just helpful to them

Section VI: Payment

This will actually make the government money

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB067

Committee: 4

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Auburn-Auburn High School

Author(s): Leah Lethander,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Oooh I'm Blinded by the Lights

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

AN ACT TO: Ban the Manufacture of LED Headlights in Alabama

SECTION I – PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to address the potential hazards and safety concerns associated with the use of LED headlights in vehicles. The increasing prevalence of LED headlights has raised issues related to glare, distraction, and potential negative impacts on road safety. This bill aims to mitigate these concerns and enhance overall road safety within the state of Alabama.

SECTION II – JUSTIFICATION: The use of LED headlights has been linked to increased instances of glare, affecting the visibility of other drivers and posing a potential risk to road safety. Studies have shown that glare from LED headlights can cause discomfort, distraction, and, in some cases, contribute to accidents. By prohibiting the manufacture of LED headlights, this bill seeks to address these safety concerns and promote a safer driving environment for all residents of Alabama.

SECTION III – DEFINITIONS:

1. "LED Headlights" shall be defined as headlights that use Light Emitting Diodes as the primary source of illumination.
2. "Manufacture" shall be defined as the process of producing, assembling, or creating LED headlights for use in vehicles.

SECTION IV – FUNDING: This bill does not require any additional funding, taxes, or fees for implementation.

SECTION V – PENALTIES/ENFORCEMENT: Any person found manufacturing LED headlights within the state of Alabama shall be subject to penalties as follows:

- First Offense: A fine of up to \$1,000
- Second Offense: A fine of up to \$2,500 and suspension of manufacturing operations for a specified period
- Third Offense: A fine of up to \$5,000 and permanent prohibition of manufacturing LED headlights within the state.

Enforcement of this prohibition shall be carried out by appropriate state authorities responsible for overseeing manufacturing regulations.

SECTION VI – EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill shall take effect one year from the date of passage, allowing manufacturers and the public sufficient time to adjust to the new regulations.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # SB068

Committee: 1

Chamber: Senate

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Aashvi Patel, Margaret Hornsby

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Helping our Heroes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION I: Definitions:

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)- is a psychiatric disorder that may occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event, or series of events. An individual may experience this as emotionally or physically harmful or life-threatening and may affect mental, physical, and social. Examples include natural disasters, serious accidents, terrorist acts, war/combat, rape/sexual assault, historical trauma.

Veteran- an individual who was released or discharged from the active military, navy, or air force.

SECTION II: Explanation:

As a country, we hold our veterans in the highest regard as heroes. However, we don't always treat them that way. Thirty percent of our returning veterans are thought to suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Of those, it is thought that half of the military members with PTSD do not report it. These issues are not always resolved, whether it is due to a lack of resources, expertise, or political pressure. That is where the "Helping Our Heroes" Bill comes in. This bill will implement a four-year program that will aid Veterans following their service, provide them with therapy, and housing if needed, and help them transition into society once again.

SECTION III: Cost and Funding:

The annual cost of this program will vary given that the number of active soldiers deployed and returning to the US is dependent on military status and affairs. This program will be run through the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. The ADVA will fund the educational and housing aspects. Finally, healthcare, including therapy and the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD will be funded through the Alabama Department of Public Health.

SECTION IV: Action:

The "Helping our Heroes" bill implements a four-year program for veterans returning from combat. Any veteran that receives these benefits must have: Lived in Alabama for at least 5 years leading up to their deployment, served their full term or been honorably discharged, and must have approval from the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. Following their return to Alabama, veterans may apply and enter into the program at any time. The 4-year program is separated into three phases. Phase One will start with the veterans being diagnosed and beginning treatment for PTSD. Phase One will last a year and veterans will be introduced to many avenues for care and sanctuary. Veterans who applied but don't present with PTSD but still have been affected by their military duty will skip to phase two, but will still be voluntarily placed into

therapy throughout the program. The veterans without PTSD will be placed into Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), specifically for stress disorders similar to PTSD. In addition, Phase One will act as a year of readjustment into civilian society free from the typical stresses of everyday life. Veterans have two years in Phase Two to receive education, participate in internships, and explore life outside of the military. This will allow veterans to learn a skill or trade that can then apply to a career to become a valued member of society. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs must pre-approve any training program, college, or internship that takes place during the two years. Finally, Phase Three is the final year under government aid. During this time veterans must look for work and job opportunities. This phase applies to veterans who have the abilities and capabilities to work.

SECTION V: Repealing Clause:

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

SECTION VI: Enactment:

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.

HOUSE BILLS

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

These bills have been selected by the leadership to skip the Committee Process and be debated first in their Chamber. Debate will begin on these bills when Chambers convene on Friday. They are not assigned to a Committee. The patrons should report to Committee 1.

HB005 A Bill to Require Entrance and Exit Examination for Children in Juvenile Detention Centers.	Ann Wright Carlson	Birmingham-Mountain Brook
HB009 Woop woop should not be the sound of the police	Carter Holloway	Birmingham-Spain Park
HB024 A Bill to Mandate Kindergarten	Lulu Espy	Montgomery- Montgomery Academy
The Regular Calendar will be distributed as soon as possible after Rules Committee and will be available from the Clerk/Secretary in each chamber.		

HOUSE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE 1 EDUCATION

CHAIRPERSON ADDISON PLEDGER
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 304

COMMITTEE 2 EDUCATION

CHAIRPERSON ANN WRIGHT CARLSON
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 325

COMMITTEE 3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WELFARE

CHAIRPERSON ANNA LATHRAM
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 429

COMMITTEE 4 OTHER

CHAIRPERSON BETHANY YIN
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 316

COMMITTEE 5 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION

CHAIRPERSON JAMES PUCKETT
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 320

COMMITTEE 6 HEALTH AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CHAIRPERSON LIBBY BATY
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 418

COMMITTEE 7 FINANCE & TAXATION, JUDICIARY

CHAIRPERSON MERE MORRISON
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 206

COMMITTEE 8 PRISONS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CHAIRPERSON PATTON HAHN
LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 123



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H001

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Zachary Diamond,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Importance of Organic food

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Organic- produced or involving production without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other.
- USDA- United States Department of Agriculture

Section II: Proposal

- This bill will decrease the Alabama state sales tax on Alabama farmed, USDA certified organic food that falls under the Food/ Grocery section from 3% to 2.5%.

Section III: Justification:

- Since the earliest adoption of organic farming in the U.S, Alabama has consistently lagged behind the rest of the country due to lack of knowledge as well as a lack of interest. Despite this history of skepticism, the adoption of organic practices has grown tremendously in the last couple years due to recent societal changes that stress the importance of eating healthy and living your best life. Even though the demand for organic goods has increased; Alabama remains second to last in certified organic operations as well as ranking 3rd in the nation for the highest obesity rates with 39.9%. That statistic rises to well over 40% in poorer, more poverty-stricken counties. This bill will effectively counteract the costs that inhibit consumers from buying these organic products by lowering the state sales tax rate making the groceries more affordable and accessible. This will lead to an increase in Alabama's overall health and standard of living as organic food does not contain harmful chemicals such as pesticides and insecticides. There will also be a corresponding growth in sales that will generate a mass economic gain for participating farms. Lastly, it will promote the need for organic certification as only USDA certified organic food will be eligible for the tax decrease. All in all, this bill will allow healthier food options to be more affordable and accessible, contributing to a decrease in statewide obesity rates, while also creating an economic gain for local farms.

Section IV: Funding

- Funding will not be needed as this bill enacts a decrease in sales tax and not the formation of a program.

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Revenue.

Section VI: Severance

- All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H002

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Carson Washington,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to Offer Zero-Interest Loans and Subsidization to Farmers Installing Sustainable Irrigation Systems

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I. DEFINITIONS:

1. "Subsidies" are direct payments, tax breaks, and other forms of assistance given by the government to offset reduced income.
2. "Low-Interest Loans" are loans in which the principal balance is repaid with an interest rate substantially below market average.
3. "Grants" are funds allocated by the government to private entities for a particular purpose.
4. "Farmers" are owners or operators of agricultural facilities that produce and sell a minimum of \$25,000 of crops per year.
5. "Sustainable Irrigation" are stable, uninterrupted methods to water crops that do not deplete natural resources or require intensive human capital.
6. "Drip Irrigation Systems" are irrigation systems that involve low-pressure, controlled delivery of water to the roots of plants through tubes.

Section II. PROVISIONS:

1. The Alabama Department of Agriculture shall establish the "Sustainable Farming Program" (referred to after as SFP) with the intent of providing financial assistance to farmers to implement drip irrigation or other sustainable irrigation systems.
 2. In order to be eligible for the SFP, farmers must prove:
 - a. After the installment of the existing irrigation system soil saturation or soil salinization had increased by a minimum of 20%, river levels had decreased by a minimum of 5%; or
 - b. A new irrigation system would be likely to increase crop production by a minimum of 15%.
 3. The SFP is allowed to provide the following types of financial assistance to those eligible:
 - a. Subsidies;
 - b. Low-Interest Loans; and
 - c. Grants.
 4. The maximum financial assistance should not exceed \$4 per linear foot, or a total of \$20,000 per farm, whichever is higher.
 5. For loans, repayments shall be made over a period of 10 years, with the first payment due 6 months after disbursement.
 6. Participating farmers will be required to report monthly on soil health and water usage.

- a. This will be enforced by third-party auditors, who will also conduct annual site visits and inspections.
 - b. The program will publish an annual report aggregating and analyzing the data in order to track program performance and identify areas for improvement.
7. The Alabama Department of Agriculture shall give priority to farms that have not previously received financial assistance from any ADA programs.

Section III. PENALTIES:

- 1. If a farmer defaults on their loan, they shall be required to pay 6% interest per annum on the outstanding balance.
- 2. Violations of this law, including misuse of funds, will result in immediate retraction of funds, and a fine of up to \$1,000.

Section IV. FUNDING:

- 1. Funding for this program will be collected through the federal Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill.

Section V. EFFECTIVE DATE:

- 1. This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.
- 2. This program shall expire on December 31, 2028 unless extended by subsequent legislation.

Section VI. REPEALER CLAUSE:

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section VII. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:

If any provision of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intention of the Legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section VIII. EMERGENCY CLAUSE:

The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendar in both Houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three separate days in each House be suspended, and this Rule hereby suspended.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H003

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Anaiah Robertson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Help The Homeless Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section:1 Definitions

Homeless - (of a person) without a home, and therefore typically living on the streets.

Low Income Tenants - means persons or families with Adjusted Income which does not exceed 60% of the Median Income for the Area adjusted for household size.

Abandoned property - condemns someone or something to (a specified fate) by ceasing to take an interest in them.

Eminent Domain - gives the government the power to take your property even if you don't want to sell it.

Preliminary - an action or event proceeding, or preparing for something fuller or more important.

Section:2 Proposal

This act will re-purpose and renew abandoned buildings for low income housing/ apartments.

Abandoned property taken by the state under section of this act shall be renewed and repurposed for low income housing/apartments if it can be renovated into a livable area.

If it cannot be renewed then the state will wait till they have money to demolish the building which can be repurposed for any other state need.

Section:3 Preliminary

A notice will be provided and a hearing in which you can claim your property. Plans for what you are going to do with the property will also be needed. If neither of these are adhered by your property can be claimed under eminent domain.

1. The State shall hold a preliminary hearing to determine whether ownership of abandoned property shall be forfeited to the State under the terms of this act.
2. The State shall cause to be published notice of the preliminary hearing under subsection (a) above, providing 90 days notice to owners of abandoned property that their property is subject to change of ownership at said hearing.
3. At the hearing provided under subsection (a), the owner shall have the right to counsel and has to present evidence of title or ownership to the abandoned property mentioned or in the preliminary hearing notice.
4. A verified owner shall present at the preliminary hearing a plan to renew the use of the abandoned property subject to the hearing. The plan must have the following elements:
 - a. A plan to use the abandoned property that takes effect within 3-5 years of the date of the plan.

- b. A cost-benefit analysis studying the costs associated with the plan.
 - c. A monthly road map to achieve the plan.
- 5. If the owner fails to meet quarterly benchmarks for the plan, a hearing shall be held to determine whether the plan remains feasible as written or whether ownership shall transfer to the state under the state's eminent domain powers.

Section:3 Justification

According to endhomelessness.org in the State of Alabama 3,434 people are homeless on a given night 7 homeless per 10,000 people in the general population. Chronic homelessness causes strain and financial hardship on our society. These significant costs can add up. They include emergency room visits and hospitalizations, police intervention and incarceration, and the use of mental health, poverty, and homeless programs. Homelessness impacts the availability of healthcare resources, crime and safety, the workforce, and the use of tax dollars. Furthermore, homelessness impacts the present as well as the future. Statistics from www.usich.gov show as many as 40%-60% of people experiencing homelessness have a job, but housing is unaffordable because wages have not kept up with rising rents. There is no county or state where a full-time minimum-wage worker can afford a modest apartment. At minimum wage, people have to work 86 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom. Today, only 37 affordable homes are available for every 100 extremely low-income renters. As a result, 70% of the lowest-wage households spend more than half their income on rent, placing them at high risk of homelessness when unexpected expenses (such as car repairs and medical bills) arise.

Section:4 Funding and Overseeing

The funding for renewing and re-purposing the abandoned buildings will come from the General Fund, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). And will be overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Section:5 Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section:6 Enactment

This act shall be enacted in January 2028 after its passage or approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H004

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Magic City Acceptance Academy

Author(s): Anna Linderman,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Display of Knowledge Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- The Library Bill of Rights: An article that affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that basic policies created by the Alabama Library Association should guide their services.

Section II: Proposal

- Upon signing, this bill would give librarians full authority to decide what books are featured on promotional or decorative displays within the library as long as the covers or titles of books featured in children's sections do not contain explicit material, such as nudity, foul language, or excessive blood or gore, restricting Library boards from ordering a librarian to take down a book display unless it violates the Library Bill of Rights. When deciding what content is acceptable, the guidelines stated in the Library Bill of Rights must be strictly followed, which states "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

Section III: Justification

- Across Alabama, public libraries have been receiving backlash for the books they chose to put in decorative displays, not because the books are inappropriate or explicit, but because the content does not align with the personal beliefs of some members of the community. The main concern in regard to public displays in libraries is if the content is appropriate for children or not. However, The American Library Association states that: "Like adults, children and teens have the right to find the information they choose." While parents and guardians have the right to decide what content is acceptable for their children, they do not have the right to make that decision for the entirety of a library's patrons.

Section IV: Consequences

- If this bill is signed, it would allow a more diverse selection of books to be advertised to the public and help create more accepting environments in Alabama's public spaces and make it easier to access a wider array of knowledge.

Section V: Enforcement

- Implementation of this policy will be overseen by the Alabama Public Library Service.

Section VI: Payment

- This bill does not require monetary funding.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H005

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Ann Wright Carlson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A Bill to Require Entrance and Exit Examination for Children in Juvenile Detention Centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Incarcerated - In jail or prison

Youth - 18 or younger

Section II: Background

In the United States, 71% of youth incarcerated eventually find themselves behind bars again later in life in a system where education in juvenile detention is not the highest priority. Previously it was documented that incarcerated teens have significantly lower rates of academic achievement, higher suspension and dropout rates, and lower rates of post-secondary enrollment and completion than the average public school student (yic.org). Education in juvenile detention centers is offered but not to the extent that is necessary. A way to change this is to require entrance exams to youth entering the system with a foreshadowed sentence greater than two weeks. After said youth's sentence is over, an exit exam will be required to ensure further education will be sought if necessary.

Section III: Proposition

Once enacted, this bill would prevent re-incarceration of youth to its best power as the youth leaving would be at the best advantage to either find work or continue their education. Entrance and exit exams would be equivalent across the board and given on the first day of the second week of incarceration. This would give the educators in the system an idea of where the student would need to start their education.

Section IV: Justification

Going to juvenile detention is a life altering experience and affects the life of those youths differently. Once a child is placed into a detention center, they are 71% more likely to end up in that detention center, jail, or prison once they are released. This bill helps to minimize the effect of juvie on kids being sentenced to go there. It has been proven that throughout the United states once a child is detained and sentenced to life in juvenile detention it is almost impossible for that same child to be as prosperous in life as one who was never behind bars. If the Children in juvie are given an education fit to their needs, the probability of their perseverance after incarceration is much higher. It has been proven that education provided while incarcerated can increase employment and education.

Section V: Implementation

When this bill is passed, youth in detention centers will all receive testing in order to acclimate themselves to the new educational environment. The only youth that will be exempted from this examination will be the

ones who have one month or less in detention as it would be hard to curate a plan for them and then turn around and dispose of that plan because they are leaving the center. When enacted this bill would not cost anything more to the Alabama state government as the tests would be provided and proctored by the educators in-house.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective on the first day of the following year upon its enactment and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H006

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Ellie Hoar, Margaret Christiansen

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Snip it in the Bud

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definition

Sex Offender Includes any adult or juvenile who has been convicted of a sexual offense.

Sexual Offense can be described as any of the following:

- 1] A sex offense committed by forcible compulsion, violence, duress, menace, fear of immediate bodily injury to the victim or another person, or threatening to retaliate in the future against the victim or any other person.
- 2] A sex offense involving a child.
- 3] Any sex offense involving the enticement or solicitation of a minor for sexual purposes.
- 4] Any sex offense that is predatory in nature.
- 5] Any solicitation, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in subdivisions [1] to [4], inclusive.
- 6] Any other offense for which the court makes a specific finding on the record that, based on the circumstances of the case, the person's offense should be considered a sexual offense under Alabama state law.

Vasectomy is the name of the surgical operation in which the vas deferens is cut, usually as a means of contraception

Vas Deferens is the tube that carries the sperm to a man's penis

Convicted the act or process of finding a person guilty of a crime, especially in a court of law

Section 2: Proposal

1. Every person assigned male at birth in the state of Alabama who is a convicted sex offender must undergo a mandatory vasectomy overseen by the state.
2. Once declared guilty of the sexual crime, the offender in question would be taken to the local hospital and the vasectomy would commence. In this process, a small puncture or incision would be made in the scrotum area. From there the vas deferens would be drawn out and tied so as to prevent any semen from secreting from it. After the tubes have been tied, the vas deferens are placed back inside the body and the wound is stitched up.
3. If a prison sentence is given, the patient is entitled to 48 hours of recovery time under the watch of a parole officer before being returned to prison to carry out the rest of their judge-determined sentence.

4. A few weeks after the procedure, the doctors who performed the surgery will inspect to make sure that the vasectomy went as planned and clear the patient from further contraception treatment.
5. No court-mandated vasectomy may be reversed without a judge's adjudication upon the determination that the offender is no longer a threat to society.

Section 3: Justification

1. Statistics from the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology show that among adult women an estimated 32,101 pregnancies result from rape each year.
2. Sex offenders are likely to become two-time offenders. According to the ESFANDI Law Group, sexual recidivism rates are commonly found to be 10%-15% after five years, 20% after ten years, and 30%-40% after twenty years in follow-up studies. Unfortunately, not all crimes are reported; thus, these estimates are likely low.
3. According to the world's largest non-profit medical practicing group, Mayo Clinic, Vasectomies are scientifically proven to be just shy of 100% effective. The surgery has an extremely low failure rate of 0.3-9% as stated by the National Library of Medicine.

Section 4: Funding

1. No governmental funding would be needed in the enactment of this bill. The money for the medical procedure will come out of the funds allocated to the death penalty.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

Upon earning a majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the bill will become effective in the next new calendar year [January 1st, 2025].



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H008

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Henry Short,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Drug Dealers are Murderers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Second-degree murder - A homicide that is not always premeditated, but is carried out with intent.

DEA - United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Section II: Background

Alabama has experienced an alarming increase in the number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths in recent years—from 121 in 2018 to 428 in 2020. Six of 10 counterfeit prescription pills analyzed by the DEA Laboratory in 2022 contained a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. A lethal dose of fentanyl is only about 2 milligrams, which is equivalent to just a few grains of salt. Fentanyl is inexpensive to manufacture, and in 2021, the DEA seized enough fentanyl to kill every American. Counterfeit pills, such as oxycontin, are also known to contain lethal doses of fentanyl. In addition to pills, fentanyl is found in capsule form and can be disguised as gummies or candies to attract children.

Section III: Proposition

Fentanyl dealers who have dealt to people who have overdosed and died are not only subject to possession and distribution charges, but are to be also charged with second-degree murder.

Section IV: Justification

This bill aims to decrease the surging amount of fentanyl deaths by increasing the consequences of selling it. Alabama, along with 24 other states, have already passed a bill stating that overdose deaths in Alabama are subject to a manslaughter charge, but this is not enough, as manslaughter can carry a sentence of anywhere between two and 20 years of imprisonment allowing dangerous people back on the streets in a relatively short amount of time and continuing with their criminal actions. Therefore, second-degree murder charges would keep drug dealers off the streets for a longer time (10-99 years), leading to fewer overall fentanyl-related deaths.

Section V: Implementation

This bill would be enforced by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama judicial system, and DEA. This bill does not require funding. People already in jail with manslaughter charges from fentanyl overdose deaths will not receive additional charges following the passage of this bill.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VIII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H009

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Carter Holloway,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Woop woop should not be the sound of the police

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Community engagement - Police officers will have to engage in their community by maybe going to local parks, recreation centers, etc. They will have to build a relationship with the people in their community.

Section II: Proposal

My bill will force police officers to engage in their community to build relationships with the people of alabama.

Police officers will be paid to spend 2 hour shifts twice a week out of their 40 work week schedule to hang around their community and not do any traditional police work. Meaning they can't respond to calls, or arrest people.

Examples of engaging in the community would be playing pickup basketball at a gym or recreational center, hosting or going to barbecues, etc. Once the bill is passed the department can decide what other activities officers will be required to take part in.

The officers will not be able to stay in their police cars or regular cars, they will not be able to drive in their cop cars during their community engagement hours, There can't be more than 3 officers from a department doing community engagement hours, and they will be banned from wearing their police uniforms.

Section III: Justification

In the state of Alabama and the rest of the country, there is a problem that is highly concerning. That problem is that most people don't trust the police in their community. The result of this could be people not giving information to the police that is crucial to a case. Although some officers have given policemen a bad reputation, all police officers shouldn't be viewed as terrible people. This bill was made dedicated towards trying to help police officers with being more successful when it comes to getting information from a witness and it also helps the people of Alabama by feeling more comfortable with police officers.

The connection between legitimacy perceptions and compliance behavior suggests a link between community outreach efforts that increase levels of legitimacy and reduce crime. As Sherman and Eck (2002: 318) note: "The capacity of police legitimacy to prevent crime is something community policing may well be effective at creating." For example, door-to-door visits by officers seem to be an effective approach for both increasing citizen satisfaction and reducing levels of victimization. Wycoff, Pate, Skogan, and Sherman (1985) found that efforts by police in a target neighborhood in Houston to initiate more positive, informal contacts

with citizens led to lower rates of victimization. The program focused on the quality of police-citizen interactions.

Section IV: Consequences

As I have stated earlier it will create better relationships between a community and its police officers. It could possibly decrease the amount of falsely imprisoned people since the police would be able. It increases the amount of information policemen can get when it comes to a case.

Section V: Enforcement

ALEA would be responsible for managing and implementing these regulations and if these regulations aren't meant it can result in disciplinary action for the department and financial penalties.

Section VI: Payment

There will be no additional costs.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H010

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Addison Pledger,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Thou Shalt Not Kill

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Death penalty-the punishment of execution, administered to someone legally convicted of a capital crime.
- Exonerated- absolve (someone) from blame for a fault or wrongdoing, especially after due consideration of the case.
- allocate-distribute - (resources or duties) for a particular purpose

Section II: Proposal

This bill will make the death penalty illegal in Alabama. Death by lethal Injection, electrocution, and lethal gas in Alabama will no longer be allowed once this bill is enacted. Capital punishment will no longer be accepted as a form of punishment. When a person is convicted, they will now receive life without parole.

Section III: Justification

Alabama currently has the highest per capita execution rates in the nation. Since 1983 Alabama has executed 72 people, with 9 of those people having been exonerated after being executed. In 2022 the state of Alabama failed to execute three people consecutively by lethal injection, one man died after three hours of suffocation, and the other two men lived. These failed executions show that this method of punishment is outdated, costly, and no longer sufficient.

Section IV: Consequences

No person shall be punished with the death penalty, but instead receive a life sentence without parole.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Corrections will enforce this when it is passed.

Section VI: Payment

Research from other states such as Tennessee, Florida, California, Maryland, and North Carolina shows that taxpayers' dollars would be saved if this bill is passed because they will no longer be paying for the state to enact the death penalty, but rather it will cost less to house them for the rest of their lives in prison. Therefore, the money saved could be allocated to preventive programs like community and family programs.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H011

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Tarajhi Liddell, Sharaia Canady

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Law Enforcement Initiative Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION 1: This bill aims to address the lack of trust between the community and the police that serve it.

SECTION 2: Equity: the quality of being fair and impartial. Disparities: differences between racial and ethnic groups. Law Enforcement: the people who enforce laws, investigate crimes and make arrests. Fairness- making judgements that are free from discrimination. Incentive: a thing that motivates or encourages someone to do something. Termination: bring your career to an end; fired.

SECTION 3: These policies are to ensure public safety and the trust between the public and law enforcement.

This will be achieved with:

(1) Community Policing Initiatives

Allocate resources for community policing programs to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and communities.

Encourage community engagement in shaping local law enforcement policies through advisory boards

(2): Police Accountability and Transparency

Implement mandatory body cameras for all law enforcement officers to enhance accountability.

Establish an independent oversight body to investigate cases of alleged police misconduct and ensure transparency in the process.

(3.) Prohibition of Racial Profiling

Explicitly prohibit racial profiling and implement measures to ensure its eradication.

SECTION 4: This will be funded by local and state law enforcement.

SECTION 5: There should be appropriate penalties for law enforcement who violate this law.

First offense: Verbal warning including a hearing to evaluate their values as a law enforcement officer.

Second offense: One month suspension with reduced pay.

Third offense: Suspension without pay for two months.

Fifth offense: Termination.

SECTION 6: This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H012

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Dothan- Northside Methodist

Author(s): Maksim Presnell,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Why Allow Devices That Permit Illegal Activity?

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Radar Detector: A radar detector is an electronic device used by motorists to detect if their speed is being monitored by police or law enforcement using a radar gun. Most radar detectors are used so the driver can reduce the car's speed before being ticketed for speeding.

Laser Jammer: A laser jammer is a device that returns a "no response" or a cosine error when a police LIDAR gun is used to target a vehicle.

Radar Jammer: Is a piece of equipment used to scramble nearby radar signals.

GPS Jammer: a typically small, self-contained, transmitter device used to conceal one's location by sending radio signals with the same frequency as a GPS device. When this occurs, the GPS device is unable to determine its position due to interference.

Section II: Proposal

Subsection A: Ban of devices

This bill will ban the use and possession of radar detectors, laser jammers, radar jammers, and GPS jammers in the state of Alabama. The possession of these devices would be classified as a misdemeanor not punishable by jail time on the first offense but instead subject to a \$750 fine for the first two offenses, then increasing in increments of \$500 per offense. The use and possession of these devices would be a \$1000 fine for the first two offenses then increasing in increments of \$750.

Subsection B: Driver's License Points

In addition to being fined any person found to have a radar detector, or laser jammer in their vehicle will be subjected to six (6) points under the Driver's License Point System

Subsection C: Ban of Sale

Any business, corporation, or person(s) found to be selling such devices within the state of Alabama will be subjected to a \$50,000 fine that would increase in increments of \$20,000 per offense.

Subsection D: Radar and GPS Jammer Addition

Currently radar jammers and GPS jammers are illegal under federal law. Should Congress ever repeal these laws, the use of radar jammers and GPS jammers in the state of Alabama will remain illegal and punishable under the above clauses. This is due to the known fact they can interfere with airplanes because of how they are designed.

Section III: Funding

This bill requires no state funding. This bill will also generate funding for the state general fund.

Section IV: Enforcement

This legislation will be enforced by the current standing law enforcement agencies within the state of Alabama.

Section V: This law shall take effect immediately upon its signing by the governor or its otherwise becoming a law.

Section VI: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Sections and subsections of this bill are severable from each other. If any part of this law is deemed unconstitutional, the other parts will remain in effect.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H014

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Sadie Brewer,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Legalize the Lotto

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

lottery: a means of raising money by selling numbered tickets and giving prizes to the holders of numbers drawn at random.

constitutional: relating to an established set of principles governing a state.

Revenue: the money generated from normal business operations, calculated as the average sales price times the number of units sold.

Section II: Proposal

The state of Alabama will have a lottery as well as casinos and gambling legalized

Section III: Justification

The lottery and gambling overall are a great way to make revenue for your state experts say it boosts the economy with money made from these organizations. The state can choose to use the money as they like and it can go to help improve public services fund education and the lottery has programs that offer scholarships to local kids. Some states around Alabama do not allow it since the states are in what is considered as the bible belt so this could bring more visitors from out of state and help Alabama even more when people visit by boosting the economy. Many states that have the lottery say that during vacations or holidays, they get many sales on lottery tickets and people in the casinos.

Section IV: Consequences

- Alabama's economy will improve and money from legalizing gambling will be used to help public services and education

Section V: Enforcement

- this would be enforced and regulated by the state and provincial governments

Section VI: Payment

Funded through people who buy the tickets or go to the casinos

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing. Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H015

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Audrey Chambers, Jeremiah Barrow

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Raise The Wage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I:

The intent of this Legislation is to ensure that the state of Alabama has set forth a standard livable minimum wage for service industry employees who also receive gratuity tips.

Section II:

Minimum Wage: A fixed regular payment, typically paid on a daily or weekly basis made by an employer to an employee, especially to manual or unskilled workers.

Employee: A person employed for wages or salary, especially at the non-executive level.

Gratuity/Tip: A sum of money given to someone as a reward for their services.

Server: Person or thing that provides a service or commodity, such as a waiter or waitress.

Section III:

The state of Alabama is one of the many states like Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee to not adopt a minimum livable wage for service industry workers but use the federal wage of \$2.13 per clock hour. Due to the recent onset of economic inflation, this legislation initially increases the required minimum wage for said employees to \$4.13 per clock hour with an incremental increase of 50¢ per following year then caps out at \$7.25. Service employees will still be allowed to collect gratuity for their services. This will provide said employees with a livable wage as well as increased employment interest and opportunities in the service and hospitality Industry due to stable pay.

Section IV: The funding for this minimum wage increase will be provided by employers.

Section V: The Alabama Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division will monitor compliance with this legislation. For any initial violation the penalty is \$100 for each failure to pay each employee. For each subsequent violation or any willful or intentional violation the penalty is \$200 for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25% of the amount of wages unlawfully withheld.

Section VI: This act shall become effective 6 months upon its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H017

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Madilyn Whitener,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Sexual Education for Alabama Public Schools Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

WHEREAS the current status of Alabama's public school curriculum does not ensure students the proper sexual education about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), consent, and more. As of 1987, the Alabama State Board of Education only requires students in grades 5–12 to receive education and instruction on HIV and AIDS prevention through a health education program.

Section I: Definitions

Abstinence - self-enforced restraint from indulging in bodily activities that are widely experienced as giving pleasure.

Alabama State Code Title 16. Education Section 16-40A-2 - any program or curriculum in the public schools in Alabama that includes sex education or the human reproductive process shall include and emphasize the following; abstinence from sex, abstinence from sex outside of marriage, the importance of delaying sexual activity, and discouraging risky sexual behavior.

Public school - a free tax-supported school controlled by a local government authority.

Sexual health: physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being concerning sexuality.

Section II: Proposed Action

Under this bill, all Alabama public schools that receive federal funding must initiate and implement a sexual education curriculum in each grade level from ninth to twelfth. These curricula should be deemed to provide the most up-to-date research available. The instructions given in this curriculum should not be influenced or restricted by any religious beliefs. It is also suggested that each school curriculum must teach the importance of consent and responsibility concerning sexual contact/activities, alongside abstinence. This bill will ensure that teachers create an open and safe environment for their students, that will not shame or judge a student. Lastly, this bill requires that all sexual education curriculums are taught and instructed by trained, qualified persons.

Section III: Enforcement

All schools must follow a curriculum that includes education on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and the necessity for protection against them, as stated in Alabama State Code 16-40A-2. Under this bill, parents and/or guardians will still be granted an "opt-out" policy. It is also suggested that it be added under Anchor Standard 3 of the Alabama Course of Study that students are entitled to medically accurate information, products, and services to enhance their health and learning. This bill should also be overseen by the Federal

Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health and Human Sciences (DHHS), and the Alabama State Board of Education.

Section IV: Justification

The Alabama State Board of Education resolution on sexual education was adopted almost forty years ago.

The resolution only requires the bare minimum for state curriculums, not giving America's youth the education they deserve. Only requiring topics like HIV, AIDS, and pregnancy prevention is simply not enough.

It is important to educate young adults on topics like sexuality and consent to prevent them from entering dangerous situations in the future. Due to these holes in the state's education system, students turn to the internet and form their ideas of what sexual activities encompass. They begin to self-educate, not consuming the proper information they need. In the past couple of years, many bills have attempted to reform the state's sex education curriculum but failed. For example, House Bill 71 sought to reform and update the bill's outdated language but failed to pass. The biggest factor that is missing from Alabama's sex education curriculum is medically accurate, evidence-based, and culturally responsive information. Without incorporating these into the state's curriculum, Alabama will be doing its youth a disservice. It is the state's and the Board of Education's responsibility to provide adequate sexual health education beyond the surface.

Section V: Severability

All laws or any parts of laws in conflict with their legislature are hereby declared null and void.

Section VI: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H018

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Jeb Blair,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Sleeping In for Success

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Circadian Rhythm: The 24-hour internal clock in the brain that regulates cycles of alertness and sleepiness by responding to light changes in our environment.

Section II: Background

Currently, Alabama ranks third and fifth in the nation for average elementary and middle school daily start times respectively. Alabama's average daily school start times are 7:49 a.m. for both elementary and middle schools as well as 7:57 a.m. for high schools. School start and end times are determined individually by local districts.

The average teenager needs approximately eight to ten hours of sleep to function at a healthy level. On average, middle and highschoolers begin producing melatonin at 11:00 p.m. and stop producing melatonin by 8:00 a.m. Studies by The National Sleep Foundation have found that nearly 87% of high school students and 59% of middle school students do not achieve the recommended amount of nightly sleep on school nights.

Section III: Proposition

All public education regarding middle schools or schools with corresponding grade level students shall henceforth and forevermore be required to adhere to a minimum daily start time of 8:00 a.m. at the earliest.

All public education regarding high schools or schools with corresponding grade level students shall henceforth and forevermore be required to adhere to a minimum daily start time of 8:30 a.m. at the earliest. Requirements shall not pertain to optional "zero-period" or before school activities. District educational start and end times will continue to be determined at the discretion of each local district, while adhering to the minimum start times.

Section IV: Justification

Alabama's consistent ranking of having one of the top ten worst state educations cannot improve without changes that allow for necessary rest. The current unnatural start times among secondary schools significantly leads to students who "[have] symptoms of depression, perform poorly in school, and [do] not engage in daily physical activity." Conversely, this bill will promote a healthy lifestyle which will encourage academic success. Adequate sleep has been proven to correlate with a lower risk for health problems, decrease student-involved car accidents, increase the quality of family interactions, and increase student's GPA, state assessment score, as well as college admission test scores.

Although there are concerns with changing bus schedules, these proposed minimum start times will allow for districts to efficiently run staggered bus routes while accommodating for students' sleep and all of its many social, mental, and academic benefits.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Education will oversee the implementation of these acts. This bill shall not require state-wide additional funding. Individual districts will continue to be at their own discretion regarding the logistics of this bill.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H020

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Ozark- Carroll High School

Author(s): Alina McKnight,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Sign Language is a Language

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

American Sign Language (ASL) - A form of sign language developed in the US and used also in English-speaking parts of Canada.

Section II: Proposal

Require all public schools in the state of Alabama to be granted a supplement of American Sign Language (ASL) training courses to facilitate second language learning for students. The course would cover essential ASL topics, including linguistics, deaf culture, foreign sign language and other relevant areas to ensure proficiency in the language.

Section III: Justification

In Alabama's public school systems, it's a common practice to offer second language courses to students. The most frequently offered course is Spanish, which happens to be the second most spoken language in the state, according to several sources. Although American Sign Language (ASL) is another viable option, it offers additional benefits such as cultural enrichment and creating a better understanding for those who are hard of hearing or deaf. This language can also be valuable for nonverbal individuals or babies learning to communicate. The enactment of this act will increase the sociocultural environment for students in public schools. Moreover, there is a nationwide shortage of ASL interpreters, as reported by the National Deaf Center. By providing ASL courses, this act can encourage and support individuals to pursue higher education in ASL interpreting. These changes will make Alabama's public schools more culturally engaged, as well as support those who are hard of hearing, nonverbal, or those willing to expand their linguistic horizons. The knowledge acquired will be a valuable asset the students can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Section IV: Funding

The salary for the appointed ASL language professionals hired at the schools will be allocated from the general fund.

Section V: Severability Clause

Any law or legislation in dispute with this bill will be withdrawn.

Section VI: Enactment

This bill shall go into effect immediately after its passage and signing by the governor, or it is otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H021

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Mark Hanna,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Title: Foreign Language Mandation Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Title: Foreign Language Mandation Act

SEC. 1.

1. A foreign language is a language not spoken natively in a specific country
2. ETF - This is the Education Trust Fund that the governor signs allocating money to public schools

SEC. 2.

This bill will ensure that students have taken at least 2 years of a foreign language offered at their public school to graduate with an Alabama High School Diploma. This will be achieved

1. This bill requires that students at public high schools across Alabama take 2 years of any non-English language to graduate. These two years must be completed in high school consecutively. Furthermore, the student must take a language regardless of whether they speak it natively. If they speak a native language, by law, they will be required to take a non-native and non-English one at their high school.
2. All public high school students aiming to graduate with, at least an Alabama High School Diploma will be affected. This legislation will also directly affect public high school boards, which must offer foreign languages through their school or through an online program. Finally, these two years of foreign languages will account for foreign language credits. The only difference the Act makes in this field is that these foreign language credits will become required and not optional.
3. This legislation will ensure some proficiency in a foreign language among public high school graduates, altering Alabama Code Title 16. Education § 16-6B-2. Alabama lists foreign languages as an "elective course," which will remain this way—the only alteration to Alabama Code Title 16. Education § 16-6B-2 will be made because the 2 credits received for taking a foreign language will be mandatory and must be obtained in consecutive years. This is significant as it helps students with their memory, skill acquisition, and build cultural connections within Alabama's diverse population.

SEC. 3.

Currently, in Alabama, only 5.3% of residents above 5 speak another language at home (United States Census Bureau). Alabama has the third-lowest percentage of inhabitants who speak a foreign language at home. Given this fact and the lack of emphasis on foreign language learning in public school systems, it is essential to make foreign language requirements more felt. Alabama also ranks in the bottom half for education quality across multiple news outlets and studies. Increasing our score will include making foreign language teachers' presence felt across the state.

1. Alabama's education is ranked among the lowest quality and has very low enrollment in foreign languages.

Alabama's number of K-12 students enrolled in a foreign language was 17.41% (American Councils/americancouncils.org). Instead of keeping foreign languages as non-obligatory in public high schools, we can mandate it for two consecutive years, increasing the percentage of K-12 students enrolled in said classes. Furthermore, with our state rankings for education being so low, increasing the number of specialized teachers and participation of students in rigorous courses will help make the state more competitive educationally.

2. Language learning has been linked to better cognitive function. This includes sharper memories and decision-making while allowing for better communication. The skills offered from better access to increased language learning will align well with Alabama's diversity. According to the US Census Bureau, Alabama's ethnic and racial diversity ranks in the top half of all US states at 53.1%. Enforced foreign language learning will help further the links between our unique and diverse Alabamian population, which deserves to be treasured.

SEC. 4.

This act will be funded by the ETF (Education Trust Fund). This is set to be eight billion dollars in 2024. The money required for this act will be supplied to all public high schools in the state and used to hire new teachers, develop curriculums, and meet other needs for the courses being provided.

SEC. 5.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

SEC. 6.

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the end of the 2023-2024 school year



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H022

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Parker Lachowicz, Logan Gregory

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Fair Tenure Act (AFTA)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Value-added model (VAM) refers to an estimate of a teacher's impact on their students' academic progression by comparing predicted results with actual results.

Students First Act of 2011 (Act 2011-270: SB 370) outlines Alabama's previous legislation offering more specific clarifications on how to obtain tenure and processes behind how to handle teacher terminations.

The term teacher is in reference to someone employed at a school, college, or university with at least an accredited bachelor's degree and a teaching position.

Section II: Proposal

- (1) Raise the time it takes for secondary and post-secondary teachers to obtain tenure from 3 years of employment to 5 years of employment.
- (2) Obtainment of tenure is partially based on a teacher's performance on a value-added model. A teacher must score "effective" for all 5 years that they seek tenure.
- (3) Teachers whose VAM scores that are deemed below average for two consecutive years are placed on a probationary tenure period that lasts two years or until they can score above average.

Section III: Justification

(1) Alabama is in desperate need of effective teachers. It ranks almost last in education among every state at a depressing 47th. Alabama's tenure system inhibits this. By increasing the amount of years it takes to obtain tenure from 3 years of employment to 5 years of employment, the state of Alabama can root out ineffective teachers and insure that its youth is given a proper and successful education.

(2) To ensure that tenured teachers are effective in their jobs, the state of Alabama will require teachers to prove this effectiveness through a VAM. Additionally, three years is not a sufficient amount of time to judge a teacher's ability to keep their job for years to come. Having a skillful network of teachers is absolutely vital to the education of Alabama's youth and it is an essential part of sending off future generations of Alabamians with ample knowledge to succeed in life.

(3) Achieving a below average rating on a VAM for two consecutive years is a reflection of a teacher's ability to actually teach curriculum and teach it effectively. Scoring above average is not an impediment for productive teachers. It is important to clarify that inadequate teachers are placed on a probationary period where they are still allowed to teach, just not with the benefit of tenure.

Section IV: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section V: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start of the next school year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H023

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): Maggie Whitt, Katie Dean

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Restriction of the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Artificial Intelligence (AI): The ability of computer systems to perform tasks that ordinarily require human intelligence. These tasks include, but are not limited to, speech recognition, performing complex mathematical calculations, and translating between languages.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI): Artificial intelligence used to create new data, content, and ideas. These creations are sometimes inaccurate or completely false, and called an AI "hallucination."

Public School: Any school between kindergarten and twelfth grade operated by a city or county board of education or any other government agency.

ChatBot: A computer program designed to engage in simulated conversation with human users, especially over the internet. This includes ChatGPT, Snapchat AI, or other similar programs.

Section II: Proposition and Justification

This bill prohibits public school students from using generative artificial intelligence to complete assignments, take tests or quizzes, or perform any other schoolwork. It would create an exception for students enrolled in computer science courses who are learning to create and program artificial intelligence systems including ChatBots.

The use of generative artificial intelligence has become an increasing problem in public schools. Students use generative artificial intelligence to write papers, solve equations, and find answers. This hampers creativity and weakens a student's ability to solve problems on his or her own. The use of generative artificial intelligence can also lead to plagiarism or inaccurate AI hallucinations. The best solution is to ban the use of generative artificial intelligence in public schools and punish students caught using it to complete assignments - including tests, quizzes, or other schoolwork - with the same punishments applied to cheating or acts of plagiarism, including suspension or expulsion.

Section III: Enforcement and Punishment

This bill will be enforced by the administration of the public school in which the violation occurs.

Any student caught using generative artificial intelligence in violation of this bill will be punished at the discretion of the school administration, but the recommended punishment will be the same as cheating or acts of plagiarism, such as a lower grade, failing an assignment, failing the course, academic suspension or probation, or expulsion.

Section IV: Severability

All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section V: Enactment

This bill will become effective on August 1st, 2024, upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H024

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): Lulu Espy,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A Bill To Mandate Kindergarten

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Kindergarten- a school or class that prepares students for first grade

Section II: Proposition

To amend Section 16-28-4, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the minimum age for attendance at public schools; to require a child who becomes six years of age between September 1 and December 31 to complete kindergarten or demonstrate first grade readiness before entering the first grade; to provide for circumstances under which a child who is under five years of age on September 1 may be admitted to public kindergarten;

and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022. BE IT

ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: Section 1. Section 16-28-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A child who is five years of age on or before September 1 or the date on which school begins in the enrolling district shall be entitled to admission to kindergarten in the public elementary schools at the opening of schools for that school year or as soon as practicable thereafter.

(b) A child who becomes six years of age between September 1 and December 31, or by the date on which school begins in the enrolling district, shall be entitled to admission to the first grade in the local public school at the opening of schools for that school year or as soon as practicable thereafter as long as the child has successfully completed kindergarten or otherwise demonstrates first grade entry readiness, as determined by the State Board of Education, on an assessment of essential developmental and physical skills which shall be created by the Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education. The department shall publish information about essential first grade readiness skills on its website.

(c) An underage child may be admitted to public kindergarten, on approval of the local board of education on a space available basis, in either of the following circumstances:

(1) The underage child transfers from a public kindergarten in another state.

(2) The child will become five years of age between September 1 and December 31, and the child satisfies certain criteria that the local board of education may establish for underage enrollment, which, if adopted, shall include the successful completion of an assessment to determine developmental readiness for enrollment.

(d) An underage child may be admitted to public first grade if the underage child transfers from the first grade of a school in another state.

(e) No public school system shall lose any teacher unit as a result of this section.

Section III: Justification

This bill would get children in school earlier, allowing them to learn to read and write sooner. Kindergarten puts children in a safe learning environment. For low-income families, school is a way for their children to have a low-cost or a free meal each school day. This means these children would have more accessible meals a year earlier. In 2019, Governor Ivy signed the Literacy Act. This means third graders are required to take a literacy test, and if they do not make above a certain percentage, they will not move on to the fourth grade. Mandating kindergarten will help ensure that students can pass the literacy test, because it allows them to start their reading journey earlier. Alabama is ranked 44th out of all 50 states in education. Not only will mandating kindergarten help students academically, it will also help them socially. Kindergarten is an important year for children to make friends for the following years. Kids also develop cognitive, physical, social, and emotional skills in this formative year. Examples of this are problem-solving, sharing, and of course, making friends.

Section IV: Enactment

Goes into effect on 1/1/2025



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H025

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Mikiyah Washington,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Essential Life Skills

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Life skills: abilities that help promote mental well-being and competence in young people as they face the realities of life. These skills include: thinking skills (critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, decision making), personal skills (self-awareness, self-management), and interpersonal skills (communication skills, empathy, cooperation etc.).

Essential: a thing that is absolutely necessary.

Home economics: the study of care and management of a household. (budgeting, home management/design, sewing, general life skills and health/hygiene).

Financial Literacy: the ability to understand and apply different financial skills effectively, including personal financial management, budgeting, and saving. Financial literacy makes individuals become self-sufficient, so that financial stability can be accomplished.

Auto shop: teach students about the parts and systems used in automobiles and how to properly maintain and fix them; students will also learn about the necessary tools that are used on the job daily.

Woodshop: Carpentry and power tool skills class

Self-control: also referred to as self-regulation, refers to one's ability to set priorities and resist impulsive actions or responses unrelated to these priorities.

Section II: Purpose

A bill to make life skill classes like financial literacy, home economics, auto and wood shop, and budgeting classes mandatory, semester long elective in public high schools. This bill will prepare students for life and set them up for success.

Section III: Justification

In the past 10-20 years there has been a push for the expansion of more standardized testing and a focus on "what's going to get you into college?" rather than actual life skills that teach you how to be successful and independent in the world. Specifically, home economics is a course that was once offered at nearly every high school in America. In 2012 there were only 3.5 million students enrolled in FCS (family and consumer services) secondary programs, a decrease of 38 percent occurred over a decade. In 2021, out of 20,469 high schools only about 6,000 in the U.S. still offered home economics as a class. More over, this bill may afford high schoolers with the opportunity to earn scholarship funding for those who would like to pursue that field in the future. Additionally, this mandatory elective will provide students with practical responsibilities as an adult,

teaching students the “little”, but big things in life, like how to change a tire, how to change motor oil, how to pay bills, properly budget money, fill out checks, plan for retirement, how to grow vegetables, how to use power tools, and how to create a resume. Furthermore, the passing of this bill will grant students with long-term necessary life skills like problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication skills, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness, building skills, empathy, and coping with stress and emotions.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

This bill will require funding from the Alabama state board of education’s general fund.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H026

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Lily Landers,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Religion is Learning

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Religion: the belief in and worship of a superhuman power or powers, especially a God or gods.
 - Christianity: the religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth
- Buddhism: a widespread Asian religion or philosophy, founded by Siddhartha Gautama in northeastern India in the 5th century BC.
- Islam: the religion of the Muslims, a monotheistic faith regarded as revealed through Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah.
- Hinduism: a major religious and cultural tradition of South Asia, which developed from Vedic religion.
 - Judaism : the monotheistic religion of the Jewish people.
- Religious studies: is an academic field devoted to research into religious beliefs, behaviors, and institutions.

Section II: Proposal

The Alabama State Department of Education currently does not offer a religious studies course to high school students. This bill would if enacted allow students to take an optional course on the major religions in our world.

Section III: Justification

In Alabama there are currently no classes for students where they specifically learn about our world's major religions. Yes, there are history classes that address some religions, but it's not going into depth with what these religions are or what they mean. As of 2019 Alabama allows only an elective social studies course that teaches about the bible. The State of Alabama needs to make an optional religious studies class, so that students aren't just hearing about christianity, but also the other major religions. Our world's major religions are Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism. The religious studies curriculum will teach students the history, philosophy, theology, and the ethics of these religions. The teacher will be someone of religious studies major if the school can find one, or just any licensed teacher. If there aren't enough students in the in person class, or they cannot find a teacher, then the schools will offer it as an online class.

Statistics from the University of Arizona show that by taking a religious study class students get a better understanding of our world's cultures.

This means that students are able to see the bigger picture of religions, but also know why and how they started. This class isn't only good for learning the history of religions, but also for the well-being of students' life skills. From the University of South Carolina statistics show that by taking this class it allows students to

develop critical thinking abilities, and their analytical reading and writing skills. This would be good for college and beyond. So yes you're learning about the importances and history of our major religions, but you're also learning skills needed beyond high school. This class gives students the opportunities to grow in diversity with one another, and truly see what the major religions are about.

IV: Consequences

As a result of this bill the Alabama State Department of Education would be required to allow an optional religious studies class to grades 9th- 12th in public schools. They would also be required to offer it as an online class if many students don't take it in a classroom. Once again this bill would allow for students to explore and learn about the major religions, but also skills that could help in the future.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama State Department of Education would be responsible for enforcing this bill. Section VI: Payment
The Department of Education would be responsible for figuring out the fundings for this class.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H027

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Ethan Melenevsky,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Just Sleep More Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant typically used to raise alertness and energy levels. Caffeine Equivalents refers to substances that act similarly to caffeine or contain caffeine but may not be labeled as such. Examples include but are not limited to guarana, taurine, and L-carnitine.

Section 2: Proposal

This bill proposes a ban on the sale of beverages containing unsafe levels of caffeine or caffeine equivalents in schools.

1. Elementary and middle schools may not sell or allow to be sold any beverage containing caffeine or caffeine equivalents.
2. High schools may not sell or allow to be sold any beverage containing more than 100 mg of caffeine or caffeine-equivalent stimulants.
3. If a high school's student body contains students in the 8th grade or younger, it may not sell beverages containing caffeine or caffeine-equivalent stimulants unless students not yet in the 9th grade are unable to purchase them.

Section 3: Justification

1. Caffeine drinks are viewed by many as "energy-boosters" to consume when tired. While these drinks can improve alertness, most people are unaware of the negative effects of excess caffeine. Among the known effects are dehydration, irregular heartbeat and heart failure, anxiety, and insomnia.
2. For adults, the recommended daily limit of caffeine is 400 mg. This number is different in children, who are recommended no more than 100 mg from ages 12-17 and none at all before that.
3. As long ago as 2011, the CDC reports 1,499 children aged 12-17 visiting hospital emergency rooms for energy drink-related emergencies.
4. Columbia University's Irving Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, and the American Association of Pediatrics, among others, assert that no amount of caffeine intake is healthy for children under 12, and the American Medical Association supports a ban on the marketing of caffeine drinks to children under 18.

Section 4: Funding

No additional funding will be required by this bill.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted upon the beginning of the school year that follows its signing.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H029

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Diamonique Hunt, Ja'Merriah Chappell

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Optional Athletic Period Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Optional Athletic Period Act

Section 1: Definitions

Athletic- physically fit or strong; muscular or active. of, relating to, or suitable for an athlete or athletics.

Competitive- turns out to be a special training and competition with the goal of outstanding achievements, breaking the record of oneself.

Section 2- Purpose: This bill will add optional courses for physical education such as weight room, running outside, team sports, etc. into the extracurricular curriculum for high school students.

Section 3- Each high school student no matter the grade will have the option to participate in any of the athletic activities.

Section 4 Funding: This bill requires no funding from the state of Alabama.

Section 5 Benefits: Students who do not participate in sports would have the chance to exercise and reduce obesity. Students who do not have to work out at home or go to the gym. It could improve student's mental health and also increase their self-esteem. It could



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H030

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Nancy Hogan, Hariuana Gresham

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Better Curriculum, Better Grades

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I - Definition

1. Curriculum- the subjects comparing a course of study in a school or study
2. Grades - a mark indicating the quality of a students work
3. Education System - the economic and social factors that typically make up public schools at the federal, state or community levels

Section II - Proposition

We added training in education for students to learn more efficiently in failing schools. We looked at how other countries like Switzerland, Finland and the UK look at their training or curriculum. One thing we'll do is stop doing multiple choice questions in high school the students will just have to know .Curriculum

Enhancement

- (a) Collaborative Development: Establish a collaborative framework involving educators, experts, and stakeholders to develop an enriched and dynamic curriculum that aligns with current educational standards.
- (b) Inclusion of Practical Skills: Integrate practical skills development, critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world applications into the curriculum to foster holistic learning.
- (c) Updated Content: Regularly review and update curriculum content to ensure relevance to evolving societal needs, technological advancements, and global developments.

Teacher Professional Development

- (a) Continuous Training: Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators to stay updated on the latest teaching methodologies, technologies, and pedagogical advancements.
- (b) Resource Allocation: Allocate resources to support teachers in implementing the enhanced curriculum effectively, including access to training programs, workshops, and educational materials.

Student Support Services

- (a) Academic Counseling: Establish comprehensive academic counseling services to guide students in choosing courses aligned with their interests, career goals, and academic strengths.
- (b) Tutoring Programs: Implement tutoring programs to provide additional support for students who may require extra assistance in understanding the enhanced curriculum. Assessments and Monitoring
 - (a) Performance Metrics: Develop a system of comprehensive and fair assessments to measure student progress, ensuring that the enhanced curriculum is effectively contributing to improved academic outcomes.
 - (b) Periodic Reviews: Conduct periodic reviews of the enhanced curriculum's impact on student performance and make necessary adjustments based on data-driven insights.

Implementation Timeline

Specify a reasonable timeline for the phased implementation of the enhanced curriculum, allowing educational institutions to adapt gradually.

Funding: Government General Fund

Allocate appropriate funding to support the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of the enhanced curriculum.

Section III: Reporting

Require educational institutions to submit regular reports on the progress and outcomes of the enhanced curriculum implementation to relevant educational authorities.

Section IV: Enactment

This bill shall take effect 6/22/2027 after being signed into law.

Section V - Justification

A Lot of students fail because the work doesn't grab their attention or doesn't challenge them. The teachers' training doesn't prepare them for the new wave of children and adolescents.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H031

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Lorelai Kindle,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: More Hearts for the Arts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Extracurricular activity - any activity pursued in addition to a required school class
- Non-athletic extracurricular activity - extracurricular activities relating to the arts, such as theater, choir, band, art classes, and clubs
- Athletic extracurricular activity - extracurricular programs that are considered sports, such as football, baseball, and basketball
- Alabama State Department of Education - National Education Agency of Alabama

Section II: Proposal

- This bill would require school systems to hire a closer range of coaches/instructors for the arts to coaches for athletic programs. This range would be at least 1 non-athletic coach per every 2 athletic coaches.

Section III: Justification

- Principals cite non-athletic extracurriculars, such as the arts, as a currently underfunded and under-supported area of education. Funding and support have to be raised by each individual group for all extracurriculars, but many athletic extracurriculars receive more support. Unfortunately, that leaves the non-athletic ones as underfunded to provide for their needs because they have to hire many additional people to help their needs. These non-athletic extracurriculars receive less attention even though they are at least equal or even more awarded at many schools across the state. Whereas, sports programs receive pep rallies, lots of funding, and support from the school even though they do not always perform as well on the field. By adding more coaches/instructors, more support will be gained from members of the program. Coaches/instructors are also good mentors and are proven to help support kids' mental health. They help support their grades, abilities, and help them to excel in school. Without enough coaches or instructors to mentor and help students grow, many of these programs are hard to join and be supported by the school and those necessary skills are hard to reach.

Section IV: Consequences

- There would be at least 1 teacher for the non-athletic activity per every 2 athletic activity coaches.
- This will result in more support and, indirectly, funds provided for extracurricular activities, equalizing the gap.
- The arts programs will grow because there will be more opportunities to join and grow in the programs.

- There will be more funding available for the arts because they will have to spend their small funds they raise on less.

Section V: Enforcement

- The Alabama State Department of Education and individual school boards will be involved with hiring these new teachers.

Section VI: Payment

- Funding will come from the individual school boards who get national money, state money, and local money to keep the school funded. The state money portion would cover this because these will be state mandated teachers.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H032

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Bethany Yin,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: eRACEing History

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

HB 312: bill passed March 16, 2022 that forbids teachers from teaching students to adopt or believe a list of divisive concepts including:

1. "That this state or the United States is inherently racist or sexist;"
2. "That an individual, solely by virtue of his or her race, sex, or religion, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, sex, or religion."
3. "That any individual should be asked to accept, acknowledge, affirm, or assent to a sense of guilt, complicity, or a need to work harder solely on the basis of his or her race or sex."

Critical race theory: the idea that race is a social construct, not something that is merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but something embedded in legal systems and policies

Eurocentric curriculum: curricula that has been adopted that generally focuses on European history while giving little acknowledgement to Asian and African history

White supremacy: the belief that white people constitute a superior race and should therefore dominate society

¾ Clause: article one, section two of the Constitution that declared any person who was not free be counted as ¾ of a person for population and taxing purposes

Chinese Exclusion Act: United States federal law signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years

Redlining: a discriminatory practice that consists of the systematic denial of services such as mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services to residents of certain areas, based on their race or ethnicity

Section II: Background

In 2022, Alabama joined 28 other states in taking anti-Critical Race Theory (CRT) legislative measures. A section of the bill that they passed to do so (HB 312) bans teachers from teaching "that this state or the United States is inherently racist or sexist," which is a form of CRT.

During the debating of HB 312, Representative Oliver, who helped write the bill, said that the bill's aim was to "keep people from hating America...It's done with the intent of making the classroom equal, making the workplace equal and it provides protection for every student and employee." Later, House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels called the bill "a racist piece of legislation" while continuing to say, "My daughter, who's in the chamber today, how do I explain to her that the leaders of this state decided to take on an issue

that's really about erasing history, and controlling what's taught and what's not being taught because a certain group of people feel bad?"

Section III: Proposition

Amend HB 312 to remove the section that bans teachers from teaching students "That this state or the United States is inherently racist or sexist."

Section IV: Justification

From the belief of white supremacy, to the ⅔ Clause, to the Chinese Exclusion Act, to redlining, racism in the United States has been built into systems, institutions, all of the above. The part of HB 312 that this bill aims to amend censors what teachers can teach about race in an already eurocentric curriculum. Although HB 312 aims to "keep people from hating America," this forces the teaching of a false narrative, perpetuating racism. Talking about racism and its history in the United States is uncomfortable, tricky, and painful. But is it necessary to understand this country's entrenched racism in order to prevent history from repeating itself.

Section V: Implementation

No additional funding will be required. The Alabama State Department of Education will enforce this bill.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H033

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Rylee Wilcoxson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Sex Education Is Really That Important

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Terms

School: Public

Contraceptives: a device or drug serving to prevent pregnancy

Sex: sexual activity, including specifically sexual intercourse

Education: the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university

Abstinence: the fact or practice of restraining oneself from indulging in something

AIDS/HIV: a sexually transmitted disease

Consent: permission for something to happen or agreement to do something

Section I: Purpose

Currently, under the Alabama Board of Education, sex education is not a mandatory class among public high schools. Contrarily, Health Education is in which students are required to learn about AIDS/HIV. If an Alabama high school offers sex education, it is mandated to be taught in a medically accurate sense when teaching about contraceptives. The sex education program also has an emphasis on abstinence, although in 2019, 40.7% of high school students reported having sex. Unfortunately, consent is something not required to learn about if sex education is offered. In America, only 38 states and the District of Columbia mandate Sex Education and/or HIV Education. With a new generation of upcoming students, due to internet access, incoming high schoolers have a far more advanced awareness of self and a sense of reality at a much younger age. These students need to be aware and educated to prevent teen pregnancies, sexual assault/rape, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and to obtain knowledge on how these things could potentially affect their life.

Section II: Proposition

A bill to educate high schoolers (Grades 10th-12th) in Alabama public high schools on the potential outcomes of sexual intercourse, how to recognize sexual abuse, consent, AIDS/HIV prevention, practicing safe sex, not to emphasize abstinence but to teach teenagers to be mindful of how serious this action may be, and how to find resources after a sexual assault or rape. This bill will separate religion and sex to give students a complete understanding of the reality of how sex can affect their lives. This bill will make it so that the class is not sexuality based but universal for all different sexualities(LGBTQ+ inclusive). This bill will allow students already taking their required health class to not take it again unless requested. This bill is also very flexible on how it

can be processed in a school setting. If needed, sex education can be a subsection in a required health education class or a required elective of its own, depending on how a school offers mandated electives.

Section III: Justification

High schoolers are more susceptible to exposure to sexual activities due to more freedom, driving, peer pressure, and hormones. Making sex education a mandatory class would help guide and encourage students to be mindful of their actions and the consequences that come with them. It could also encourage students who have been sexually assaulted or raped and did not realize it to reach out for help and get reassurance from the resources provided by sex education. This bill will enable young people to make informed and autonomous decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health, which is critical for fulfilling their human rights.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

Any funding needed to teach educators about sex education can be provided by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) or the state of Alabama's General Fund.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective at the beginning of the next academic year after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H034

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Mobile- UMS Wright

Author(s): Anne Margaret Bridges, Madelyn Audia

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to Protect students, teachers, and librarians in Public High Schools and Libraries in the State of Alabama.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Purpose: Relating to education in the State of Alabama. This bill's purpose is to ensure public libraries have access to all public learning material. It also protects teachers' freedom of speech and allows a process for parents to appeal any material that they deem inappropriate.

Section I: Definitions

1. High School- Public institutions for learning for students in grades 9-12.
2. Duty of a Teacher- to counsel students as they grow and mature -- helping them integrate their social, emotional, and intellectual growth -- so the union of these sometimes separate dimensions yields the abilities to seek, understand, and use knowledge; to make better decisions in their personal lives; and to value contributing to society (Lanier).
3. Student- An individual enrolled in a public institution for education.
4. Library Bill of Rights- The Library Bill of Rights promulgated by the American Library Association released on June 30, 2006(American Library Association).

Section II:

State-permitted curriculums are required to be taught according to the outlined material or with material that directly relates to the topics of the outlined material. Material that is not related to or approved in state-permitted curriculums can be appealed by a parent/guardian or a student 19 years of age or older (See Section IV).

Section III:

Educators cannot penalize or discriminate against a student if the student is exempted from material that has been appealed and then further approved by a permitted administrator (See Section IV).

Section IV:

If a student over the age of 19 or a parent/guardian deems any material inappropriate, then they have the right to appeal to the teacher to discuss other options for learning. If the teacher deems the material necessary for learning, the student or parent/guardian may appeal to the principal or superintendent as to why they deem the material inappropriate. If the appeal is approved by the principal or superintendent, the student is exempt from participating in or learning the material and may be given an alternate assignment from the teacher. If the student is over 19 years of age or the parent/ guardian still believes the material is inappropriate they have the right to appeal to the local board of education. If the appeal is approved the

student is exempt from participation or learning of the material. If the appeal is disapproved the student is required to participate or learn the material as directed by the teacher.

Section V:

Educators cannot be punished based solely on the teaching of material that is not outlined or related to any state-permitted curriculum. This includes but is not limited to speech, books, videos, audio recordings, murals, and posters. However, an educator may be reprimanded based on failure to uphold the duties of a teacher (See Section I. a.) when teaching material approved or related to any state-permitted curriculums.

Section VI:

State funds will be decreased or withheld from any public library that fails to adopt the Library Bill of Rights in accordance with The American Library Association.

Section VII: Severability Clause

If any portion of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intent of the Legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section VIII: Repealer Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section IV: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective August 1st or at the beginning of the school year upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H035

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Kayla Hora, Frances Rogers

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Mandatory driver education classes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Sections I: Definitions

- Education: The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.
- In-Car Driving Lessons: The student in a car with an instructor doing a series of driving instructions
 - Online Driving Lessons: Practice on road laws
- Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT): The Alabama Department of Transportation is the government agency responsible for transportation infrastructure in Alabama.
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): Motor Vehicle issues vehicle titles, maintains vehicle records, administers the Mandatory Liability Insurance law, issues motor vehicle regulatory licenses, and administers the International Registration Plan (IRP) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) programs.

Section II: Proposal

- This bill requires every person under the age of seventeen to take fifteen hours of in-car driving lessons. If a student wishes to gain extra practice, there is an optional online driving course.

Section III: Justification

In 2021, in Alabama, every three minutes and 27 seconds, there was a car crash. A new study that followed more than 150,000 teen drivers over eight years has found that driver's education crucially reduces crashes and traffic violations among new teen drivers. If in-car driver's ed was mandatory, the number of car crashes would significantly decrease. 11.1 percent of the driver's education unit was involved in a car crash, compared to 12.9 percent of those who did not take driver's education. Also 10.4% of those who had taken a course had received a ticket, compared to 18.3% of those who hadn't. The Alabama Department of Transportation has grants that they can use towards these lessons for people whose guardians make less than 40,000 dollars a year. The total fee for the lessons would be 150 dollars without financial aid. The instructor, when you have completed the lessons, will give you a signed piece of paper showing that you completed your lessons. This piece of paper will be required to get your license when you take the driver's test at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The teachers for this driving course will be found at the DMV or approved volunteers. They will have to be certified by the DMV and never have had penalties on their driver's license.

Section IV: Consequences

If the driver has not completed the entire 15 hours of lessons, then they will not be granted a driver's license.

Section V: Enforcement

The bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles as they already have the infrastructure to handle permits and licensure

Section VI: Payment

The Alabama Department of Transportation has access to grants, specifically the RAA Annual Grant Program that they can use towards these lessons for people whose guardians make less than 40,000 dollars a year. The total fee for the lessons would be 150 dollars without financial aid.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This law will be a part of Motor Vehicles and Traffic § 32-6-1 law. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill will become effective January 1, 2025, upon the governor's approval and upon its enactment.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H036

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Brooklynn Ruffin, Hayden Whetstone

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Mandatory Sex Education Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Comprehensive sex: teaches about abstinence as the best method for avoiding STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and of infection with STDs, including HIV. It also teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals, and options.

Section II: proposal

We propose that the state of Alabama should pass a new law s that Sex Education be a mandatory class and taught in every public high school as a required elective credit. This act provides young people with dependable, comprehensive sex education programs that provide information that will help young people make responsible and healthy desicions in order to become healthy adults. This act will provide information about unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual assult, violence in relationships, etc.. In order to educate about comprehensive sex. This act will make sure that school teach about

Section III: Justificstions

Education is power and young people have the right to make decisions over their own bodies. Right now in the state of Alabama making it mandatory to teach sex eduaction in school. Sex education should be taught in school because young people deserve to learn more about the importance of their bodies and how to take the best care of them. if sex education is introduced into classrooms, young people will understand how sex can affect,

Section IV: funding and oversight

This law will be enforced by the Department of Education in the State of Alabama and they will see to it that it is a mandatory credit aswell as made to be an involvement for Students rights to their bodies. This law will require the epartment of health and human services (HHS) to establish grants to provide sex education to young people.

Section V: Severability

All laws or part of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H037

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Shivika Kumar,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Catch on to Composting

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Compost- a process that decays organic material to be used as plant fertilizer(examples of compostable materials are food/vegetable scraps, cereal, fruit, coffee grounds)
- Fertilizer chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility.
- Greenhouse gas - part of earth's atmosphere that retains heat and helps regulate earth's temperature
- Greenhouse effect - The greenhouse effect is a process that occurs when gases in Earth's atmosphere trap the Sun's heat. This process makes Earth much warmer than it would be without an atmosphere.

Section II: Proposal

This bill would add composting programs to all public schools in the state of Alabama, including elementary, middle, and high schools. This is to reduce the immense amounts of food waste going to landfills from our school lunchrooms. This bill will be accomplished by making separate bins in school cafeterias which will collect food waste to be put in added composting bins. Schools will share information to the students about which materials need to go in that bin. The compost produced can either be used as fertilizer in the school's garden and plants or be donated.

Section III: Justification

In a study done by UPenn, schools in America have 27-53 % of food wasted from their plates. If you think back to when you were in your own lunchroom, how many plates of food do you see being wasted per day? How many lunches do you see that are barely eaten and in the trash? This food is being wasted and goes straight to landfills where it is burned and in turn releases a lethal greenhouse gas called methane. This traps heat in our atmosphere and increases the greenhouse effect. This bill provides an efficient solution to this problem by providing fertilizer for the schools as well as reducing the amount of harm that can be done to the environment. Schools will actually be spending less money on fertilizers and care for the plants and they will be much healthier.

Not all communities and cities offer a separate bin for recycling; such as my own neighborhood. It is alltogether and transported to waste sights where it is "supposed" to be sorted separately. But this doesn't always happen and the waste is not always separated from objects needed to be recycled. By passing this bill, schools will make a bigger impact to help this problem.

Another benefit of this bill is that it educates students on how to be more conscious about the environment and the amount of food that is wasted. Several schools in the following states have already started including this program or similar programs - Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Maine.

Section IV: Consequences

There may be extra compost left at the schools-this can be donated to public parks/gardens or be available for families of the school to use, public buildings, and highway beautification programs. And as mentioned above, the schools can sell the extra compost leftover to possibly make money.

Section V: Enforcement(who)

If this bill is passed, public schools in the state of Alabama will have 1 school year from the signing date to establish the programs. One year is given so that the schools have time to prepare for the program.

Each school will assign a few teachers or employees to be in charge of the program. It would be their responsibility to oversee the program at school and in the lunchrooms. Their responsibilities would include educating the students and parents through fliers, posters etc. for maximum participation and to make sure the program is implemented successfully.

Section VI: Payment

This bill will cost money, but it is only an initial cost that is not very high. It will range from 500-1000 dollars. If that is a problem the school can host a fundraiser. As said in the justification, the school can sell extra compost left over which can counter/offset the money lost starting this program.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H038

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Magic City Acceptance Academy

Author(s): Abs O'Donnell,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: School Violence Intervention Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- School threat assessment programs: a group comprised of professionals in law enforcement, mental health services, and school administration to identify, evaluate, and address threats or potential threats to school security.

Section II: Proposal

- If this bill is signed into law, all Alabama schools will require school administration to work with a designated team of law enforcement, mental health professionals other appropriate agencies to monitor and respond to information, behaviors, or plans that pose a Threat to school violence.

Section III: Justification

Reports done by the Secret Service show that most school shooters were motivated by a specific grievance, and in 93% of all school-targeted violence from 1974 to 2000, the perpetrator showed behavioral warning signs. Many attackers have visible plans for their attacks, like researching guns, documenting the plan, trying to recruit other people, or preparing supplies. In 77% of school shooting incidents, at least one person knew about the attacker's plan. In the case of school shooters in America, it has been shown that most of the students communicated their intentions before committing the act, and could have been prevented.

Section IV: Consequences

- Because this legislation requires school administration to work with professionals to identify, monitor, and address real and potential threats it will help reduce the amount of school violence and provide a more secure environment for students to learn. Legally requiring schools to address warning signs and have a process that could interrupt the process of a potential attack decreases the stress that students have related to the safety they have at school.

Section V: Enforcement

- This proposal will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Education.

Section VI: Payment

- This bill will be funded by the Education Trust Fund

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H039

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Parker

Author(s): Kamarion Morris, Charisma Knight

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: New Generation of Manufacturers Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: The purpose of the bill is to establish a Manufacturing Career Academy to develop the education and skills of secondary students to join the workforce of Alabama's manufacturing industry.

Section II: Manufacturing- The Making of Articles on a large scale using machinery; industrial production. AIDT (Alabama Industrial Development Training)- State Agency established to build a healthy state economy by recruiting and training. Secondary Education-The stage of formal education that follows primary education and precedes higher education (K-12). Career Academy- Schools within schools that link students with peers, teachers, and community partners in a disciplined environment, fostering academic success, mental and emotional health, and labor market success.

Section III: Over the past decade, Alabama has developed a strong manufacturing industry. Currently, Alabama has an estimated 4,299 manufacturers, employing 282,408 Alabamians. As a method to continue to build Alabama's manufacturing industry, it is important that potential workers are properly trained and certified. Creating a Manufacturing Career Academy will provide specialized instruction and training in various sectors of the manufacturing industry. Upon completing the Alabama Department of Education Graduation requirements, students will also have certification in a specialized skill. Students will be required to complete an intensive internship with a manufacturing company and guaranteed employment after graduation.

Students must apply to be accepted to the school and maintain satisfactory academic progression. A Manufactory Career academy will be a key selling point when recruiting companies to the state, saving them millions of dollars in recruiting, pre employment screening and training. Companies will know that Alabama cares about this industry and has qualified skilled workers ready for the Manufacturing workforce.

Section IV: The estimated cost to acquire the land and build the school is 65.7 million. Current Alabama manufacturing corporations that will utilize the Career Academy for pre-training and recruiting will contribute up to 25% of the cost, AIDT will contribute 25%, and the remaining will be appropriated from the Alabama Education Trust Fund. All financial contributions will continue annually each fiscal year beginning October 1st.

Section V: Alabama Manufactory Career Academy will be under the governance of the Alabama Department of Education and its established guidelines.

Section VI: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or any provisions of it are hereby repealed.

Section VII: This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H040

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Magic City Acceptance Academy

Author(s): Riley Francis,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Mental Health Service Coordinator Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Mental health service coordinator: Mental health service coordinators set up mental health awareness events, hold small group sessions with students and connect families with professional mental health services.

Section II: Proposal

- Upon signing, commencing with the 2024-2025 school year, this bill would hire one educated mental health service coordinator to every Alabama middle and high school. This bill would apply to charter, public, and private schools.

Section III: Justification

- A 2023 Soliant study concluded that Alabama was ranked forty-nine out of fifty for the state's best mental health. School is a major cause of poor mental health, mainly causing anxiety. Having around seven hours a day, schools should have a mental health resource in place that is known to the students. Of the over 700,000 k-12 Alabamian students, countless have been affected by the covid pandemic's mental toll. No one, let alone a minor, should have to deal with the weight of a peer killing themselves. Students need a resource to turn to when their workload or other personal issues get in the way of a healthy mindset; even just knowing that there is a staff member whose job it is to listen to students could greatly improve mental health.

Section IV: Consequences

- Ultimately, hiring a mental health service coordinator will help stress and depression levels in schools lower. Students will have a resource whose job description entails helping kids sort out mental health issues, where to go for further help, and providing group activities and sessions to educate the pupils at their job.

Section V: Enforcement

- This proposal will be enforced by the Alabama Board of Education. If a school is found to have not acted on this proposal, a mental health service coordinator shall be appointed for the school immediately.

Section VI: Payment

- This bill will require around \$44,000 a year to hire an appropriately educated mental health coordinator to each middle and high school in Alabama.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H041

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Reagan Tallent,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Ready or not! An act to improve the lives of Alabama's children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION 1:

This bill will amend Sec 16-28-4, Alabama Code 1975, to require a child who becomes six years of age between September 1 and December 31 to complete kindergarten or demonstrate first grade readiness before entering the first grade.

SECTION 2:

Missing kindergarten has always led to learning gaps. The pandemic has worsened the problem resulting in more kids than usual needing extra attention when starting school. Mandatory kindergarten will result in many benefits for Alabama and its citizens including improved social emotional skills, increased earnings, reduced childcare costs, and increased labor force participation.

SECTION 3:

The State Board of Education will adopt policies which will assist local boards of education in implementing this requirement. No public school system will lose any teacher unit because of this requirement.

SECTION 4: The State Board of Education will develop policies for local boards of education to implement this bill. Any funding needed to hire additional teachers will come from the Education Trust Fund and will be distributed to local school boards by the State Board of Education.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: "All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H042

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Lucy Calhoun,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Student Mental Health Days

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Mental Health- a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being

Section II: Background

School is essential, but the mental well-being of students should also be valued. School can be stressful because of the pressure to perform well academically and socially. The topic of mental health can be stigmatized because some people still misunderstand and judge it, but stress and anxiety are things all teenagers experience.

Section III: Proposal

This bill provides for every public school student in Alabama, kindergarten through twelfth grade, to be granted five mental health days per academic year, with no more than two to be taken consecutively. These mental health days can be used anytime during the year and are excused absences. The student's grade will not be penalized due to absence. Each school may follow its grading policies with the guidelines as other excused absences in the same respective category.

Section IV: Justification

According to a 2022 study by the Anne E Casey Foundation, Alabama ranks in the bottom five states for overall school-age children's well-being. While there is a larger issue with those numbers, it is inarguable that Alabama's schools have a role to play in helping struggling students. By including mental health as an excuse for absence, schools would be destigmatizing a topic that has a negative connotation, while allowing students a chance to reset or recharge from everyday stress and anxieties dealt with at school. The day will also serve as a time for students to seek mental health treatment from professionals or supportive care to learn healthy ways to deal with stress. This allows schools to show that they prioritize their student's mental health as much as their physical health. The little things like letting students take a day to reset can make the biggest impact.

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H043

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Karter Long,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Subtract Ten From Tenure

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

- Tenure - a status granted after a trial period to a teacher that gives protection from summary dismissal
- Classroom - a room, typically in school, in which a class of students is taught
- Teacher - a person who teaches, especially in school
- Student - a person who is studying at a school or college
- Equality - what people in the civil rights movement were fighting for

Section 2: Proposal

This bill would get rid of teacher tenure. Tenure is one of the more enduring controversies of the teaching profession. More than 2.3 million teachers in the United States have tenure, which protects them from being dismissed without due cause. Essentially, tenure makes it difficult to fire a teacher without proof of gross misbehavior or incompetence. This bill would be getting rid of tenure and spreading equality like Martin Luther King.

Section 3: Justification

This bill should be enacted because it would spread equality just like my uncle Martin Luther King was doing. Tenure makes it difficult to remove underperforming teachers. Nobody wants those. Just because a teacher has been teaching for a while doesn't mean they are a good teacher. Teachers can get tenure in just three years in the state of Alabama. If a horrible teacher gets tenure it would make it harder for them to get fired. This is why tenure should be removed. We don't need a teacher like Roz from Monsters INC. Tenure is an outdated system that cheapens instruction quality and impedes diversity. Plus it makes it difficult to remove under-performing teachers. Tenure makes teachers lazy because they know it would be harder for them to get fired. Similar to the Montgomery Bus Boycott just like Rosa Parks said no, we need to say no to tenure

Section 4: Consequences

It would make it high performing teachers easier to get fired if they decide to get rid of their tenure

Section 5: Enforcement

School systems will ban tenure and if there a school system that still does tenure there will be consequences

Section 6: Payment

Teachers would get paid 10,000 extra dollars a year if they wanted to get rid of their tenure

Section 7: Conflicting laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section 8: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H044

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sisi Holden,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Splitting the Electoral College

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Electoral College: the process by which the United States elects the President, even though that term does not appear in the U.S. Constitution. In this process, the States (which includes the District of Columbia just for this process) elect the President and Vice President.

Congressional District: an electoral division of a state that elects a member of the House of Representatives.

Section II: Background

Surveys on the national scale show that 61% of American adults favor amending the electoral system in favor of a more popular vote system. Additionally, while the president has won both the popular vote and the electoral vote in all but four instances, two of these have happened in the last five elections. Such trends show that making the vote popular-based would benefit the inclusion of more voices, especially considered that voices in the seventh district of Alabama are predominantly liberal and vote Democrat, yet they are drowned out by the rest of the largely red districts.

Section III: Proposition

During the presidential election, Alabama's electoral college votes will be split between the popular vote and the popular vote of the congressional districts.

Section IV: Justification

By changing the way Alabama's electoral college votes are decided, this bill will allow the popular vote to have a larger impact on the national level.

Section V: Implementation

The Secretary of State will oversee this bill. Out of the nine current votes, two will go to the popular vote, and the remaining votes will be decided by the popular vote in each congressional district. No funding is needed for this bill.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H045

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Caroline Odom,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Subsidized Septic Tanks

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Septic tanks - underground chambers used for wastewater treatment

Vapor product - a non-combustible product containing nicotine that employs a mechanical heating element, battery, or circuit, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to heat a nicotine solution

The Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board - a board that examines, licenses and regulates persons engaged in manufacture, installation or servicing of onsite wastewater systems in Alabama

Section II: Background

In Alabama, many counties along the Black Belt struggle with accessing reliable water and sanitation. When heavy rainfall comes in these rural areas, sewage water can easily overflow from where it is stored and pool in yards.

Section III: Proposition

Alabamians who do not have an existing septic tank or private waste management system, or who are not connected to the municipal sewer system will be provided with a septic tank. People who wish to have a new septic tank will need to submit a form with the size of their lot, their income, and where they live. Participants in the program will be chosen based on these criteria.

Section IV: Justification

Alabama needs free septic tanks to ensure the health and safety of its citizens. Poor wastewater management greatly affects impoverished communities and leaves them without safe drinking water as well as damages the surrounding environment and harms wildlife. Existing wastewater management systems involve dumping sewage into pools that lead to dangerous bacteria. Voting yes for this bill will not only address the sewage problems Alabama is facing, but also address the addiction problems that are terrorizing Alabama communities.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board will oversee this new program. Septic tanks cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for the tank and full installation. To fund the new program we will raise taxes on tobacco products and vapor products containing nicotine. Alabama taxes tobacco products based on ounces. The tax rate for snuff/moist snuff/snus will raise from \$.01 per ounce to \$.50 per ounce for $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces or less and from \$.12 per ounce to \$1.50 per ounce for containers over 6 ounces. Chewing tobacco will be raised from \$.015 per ounce to \$1.00 per ounce. The rate per cigarette stick will rise from \$0.03375 per stick to \$.10 per stick.

This will make the tax on a package of 20 cigarettes be \$2.00 and the tax on a package of 25 cigarettes be \$2.50. cigarettes and tobacco and use the money to buy, install, manage, and repair the septic tanks. Alabama also will enact a tax of \$.50/ml for vapor products containing nicotine. For the tobacco tax, only the money raised through the difference of the two tax prices will go to buying, installing, and managing the new septic tanks. For example, The existing tax on a single cigarette was \$.03375 per stick, but the new tax will be \$.10 per stick. The difference between these two values is \$.06625 and \$.06625 of the money earned per stick will go to the new program. All money raised through the tax of vapor products containing nicotine will go to the new program.

Section VI: Severability Clause (Same for everyone)

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H046

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Auburn-Auburn High School

Author(s): Doyeon Kim,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Bottle Bill Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Proposition: This bill recognizes the importance of Alabama's natural environments and ecosystems to Alabama's unique identity and recognizes the devastating and detrimental potential of pollution on the environment. There is a need to encourage consumer recycling among all Alabamians in order to preserve Alabama's natural heritage.

Therefore, all beverages in recyclable containers sold for human consumption shall have a refund value of 10 cents, payable when turned into a collection center. A manufacturer shall pay the refund value and a processing fee of 6 cents, per recyclable container. The Alabama Department of Environment Management shall be responsible for inspecting collection centers and monitoring manufacturers, retailers, and distributors.

Section II: Justification: Recycling is essential to preserve and protect Alabama's ecosystems and natural resources.

With only 16% of recyclable materials recycled in Alabama and 75% of the population lacking access to curbside recycling services, this act will increase access to recycling for Alabamians and incentivize protection of the environment. Incentivizing recycling will aid in the conservation of non-renewable and renewable natural resources by providing a means to easily obtain and recycle high-quality materials.

Section III: Definitions

1. Manufacturer – A person or business responsible for manufacturing and bottling beverages.
2. Distributor – Any person offering for sale, exchange, or barter any beverage destined for direct retail sale in the State of Alabama.
3. Wholesaler – A merchant middleman who sells to retailers, other merchants, or industrial, institutional, and commercial users for resale or business use.
4. Retailer – Any person offering beverages for sale to individual consumers.
5. Beverage – Any nonalcoholic or alcoholic drink intended for human consumption.
6. Recyclable Container – Any beverage container made of glass, aluminum, or plastic.
7. Collection Center – Any approved site designated to receive recyclable containers and provide appropriate refunds to consumers. These are regularly inspected by the State of Alabama.

Section IV: Consequences and Enforcement: By implementing a legislative incentive towards recycling, the rate of recycling shall grow exponentially, and consumer pollution will drastically lessen. The legislation shall be enforced by the Alabama Department of Environment Management, which shall be responsible for creating a branch dedicated to

the management and oversight of recycling in the State of Alabama. The new branch shall be responsible for employing inspection agents that shall be assigned to inspect every collection center, manufacturer, and or distributors as designated in this legislation, annually.

Section V: Enactment Clause: This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H047

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): William Tabb,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Bring Back Grasslands

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

ADCNR- Abbreviation for Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Prairie- A type of grassland that is composed of many different species of grasses and that is <10% covered by trees.

Savanna- A mixed woodland-grassland ecosystem characterized by the trees being widely spaced so that the canopy does not close to allow growth of grasses on the ground.

Timber Severance Tax- A Tax imposed by state governments that taxes non-renewable resources, in Alabama the Timber Severance Tax is on every ton of timber.

Section II: Proposition

This bill will require the state to increase funding for the ADCNR, allowing them to increase the number of programs and organizations they can support that are interested in creating, maintaining, and supporting prairies and grasslands in Alabama on both public and private land, as well as increase the effort by the ADCNR to burn on public lands in the state, and teach more people about burning.

Section III: Justification

Alabama was once a grassland state and was covered in prairies and savannas, this has allowed Alabama to become the most biodiverse state east of the Mississippi. However, these ecosystems that once defined Alabama are being destroyed every day. Alabama has more species of grasses than all the midwestern "Prairie" states combined, but the size of Alabama's prairies have decreased over 95% since statehood. These precious ecosystems are being lost because Alabamians have stopped setting prescribed fires. The word Alabama in the Choctaw language directly translates to "brush clearers", and this clearing of the brush by Native Americans stopped trees from filling the gaps and savannas and prairies and increased habitat for the many animals they hunted. However, modern Alabamians have stopped clearing the brush and have allowed closed canopy forests to take over our beautiful grasslands.

There have been many ecological studies that discovered the fact that prairies and savannas are much better carbon sinks than forests, allowing Alabama to absorb more carbon out of the air, and at the same time growing habitats for Alabama's native species. Alabama has 151 endangered species, third most in the country, 147 of these can be protected by bringing back our prairies and savannas. The ability of prairies and savannas to filter out the sediment of water played a crucial role in the shocking number of species in

Alabama's rivers and streams, but without prairies and savannas to filter out the sediment, the sediment ends up in the bottom of rivers and streams and destroys the habitat of many of our unique aquatic animals.

Many older people often talk about how they used to see Bobwhite Quail along the side of the road, 60 years ago this was the case, Alabama had enough grasslands to support a sustainable quail population, but now we don't and people don't quite know why. It's because they do not know we were a grassland state to begin with, in fact most people are shocked to hear over half our land was covered in prairies and savannas, but if we can go out and teach landowners how to manage their lands to promote grassland growth Alabama will be an entirely different place.

Section IV: Enforcement

This bill will be overseen and managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Section V: Payment

This bill will be paid for by an increase of the Timber Severance Tax to gradually increase the average tax per acre of commercial tree farms from \$2.00 an acre to \$2.30 per acre. This will still keep Alabama as having the third lowest tax per acre in the Southeast.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment

This act shall become effective upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H049

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Makenzie Mertel, Cara Brooks

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Revise Recycling Act - An Act to improve recycling efforts in all of Alabama's cities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

DEFINITIONS:

The Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act (SWRMMA) - an act to reduce statewide solid waste disposal into landfills by 25% through a fee on the disposal of \$1/ton or \$0.25/cubic yards, establish methods of recycling, and the funding of such with the fee put in place by this act.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management - an organization focused on assuring the citizens of Alabama a safe, healthful, and productive environment by fulfilling the Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 22-22A-2.

Municipality - a city or town that has corporate status and local government.

SECTION 1:

The Revise Recycling Act will require the cities of Alabama to provide the disposal, collection, and treatment of solid waste and recyclable goods. This act also seeks to decrease the amount of solid waste being dumped into landfills and increase recycling by educating the public on said topics.

SECTION 2:

The Revise Recycling Act will make it mandatory for the cities of Alabama to provide the disposal, collection, and treatment of recyclable solid waste.

SECTION 3:

Cities will be required to provide citizens with recycling cans upon request. This will be accomplished through a city's garbage can administrators.

SECTION 4:

The funding needed for this act will be provided by the fee on solid waste disposal into landfills (\$1/ton or \$0.25/cubic yards) already put in place by the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act. Any additional funding needed will go through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H050

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Amelia Kate Skala,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Adhere to Clear Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Terms

“ADEM” or Alabama Department of Environmental Management is a department that manages programs designed to ensure the protection of Alabama's environment. This responsibility includes the protection of water quality and is accomplished through applicable state and federal statutes, implementing regulations, and permitting programs.

“EPA” means U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

“Harmed” means anything that has an adverse negative effect on the waters of the state

“Waters of the State” includes all surface or groundwater in the state except water entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership or corporation unless the water is used in interstate commerce.

“Waterway” means any river, stream, canal or channel that contains water, including, without limitation, the banks and bed of any such river, stream, canal or channel.

Section 2: Purpose

A bill to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state of Alabama, and to protect them from future contamination.

Section 3: Justification

CNBC states, “Despite being the most biodiverse state, poor water quality plagues Alabama, and no one is doing anything about it.” Much of this is due to overflowing sewage, malfunctioning septic tanks, underground storage tanks (UST's), pesticides, nitrates, unauthorized hazardous waste disposal sites, old landfills, unauthorized dumps, and abandoned wells. Our state is constantly being damaged by hazardous pollutants coming in contact with our waterways. It is our duty to protect and maintain our state's ecosystems chemically, physically, and biologically. It is a statewide goal that the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state be ultimately eliminated.

Section 4: Funding

1. Initial financing for this bill will come from both the ADEM and the Alabama State Government, through the EPA.
2. Once a substantial amount of funding has been acquired through consequential fines from harming any Waters of the State, finances for the bill will transition to this source of funding.

Section 5: Implementation

All those within the state of Alabama must take account for and abide by the following statements:

No person or corporation may dispose waste of any kind into the waters of the State;

1. No person or corporation may alter any navigable water in the State of Alabama;
2. No person or corporation may harm the waters of the State, nor make any plans, issue any permits, or otherwise take any actions that would harm the waters of the State, nor contribute to cumulative effects that lead or are leading to the waters of the State's destruction;
3. No person or corporation may reduce the waters of the State's ecological health or ecological integrity, nor decrease its ability to flourish;
4. No person or corporation may own or control species' genetics within the waters of the State, nor inhibit the waters of the State's ability to increase biodiversity, species richness, or complexity, or sustain itself through self-organization;
5. No person or corporation may impair the waters of the State's preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration;
6. No person or corporation may impair, including by cumulative effect, adequate instream flow to sustain native fish and amphibian populations and aquatic biodiversity;
7. No person or corporation may impair, including by cumulative effect, the diversity of instream and riparian habitats and biodiversity, nor hydrogeological processes including but not limited to horizontal and longitudinal connectivity, flooding outside designated urban areas, movement and deposition of sediments, and sustainable groundwater recharge; and
8. No person or any government may pollute the waters of the State
9. No person or corporation may impair the waters of the State's health, meaning generally, but not limited to, the integrity, stability, resilience, and beauty of the waterways of Alabama as a biodiverse community of interacting organisms.

Any person or corporation who fails to comply with the above statements will be subject to penalties such as fines up to a maximum of three years in prison and/or fines of up to \$100,000 for individuals and \$200,000 for corporations.

Section 7: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H051

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Max Benton, none none

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Tax Freedom Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Income Tax: A government levy imposed on individuals and businesses

Section II: Proposition

The State of Alabama effective January 1st, 2025 hereby eliminates all personal and business income taxes.

Section III: Justification

Alabama is one of the least burdensome states by taxation per capita in the nation, ranking 20th in overall tax burden in the year 2022, according to taxation.org. It ranked second in lowest property tax rates in the same year according to Forbes.com. It also tied with 4 other states for second to lowest state sales tax at 4%. However, there is always room for improvement. Companies and individuals alike still move to surrounding states like Texas, Florida, and Tennessee for new locations in far larger numbers than Alabama. Although there are many factors attributed to how people and businesses migrate, financial responsibilities are by far the easiest reason to incentivize growth. All three of these states enjoy a 0% income tax rate for ALL their inhabitants, compared to Alabama's regressive taxation varying from 9.9% in the lowest quintile, to 5% in the highest 20% of earners. Alabama, as a notoriously impoverished southern state, deserves to give its citizens, poor and rich alike, the freedom to earn and thrive in our economy without financial intervention. Eliminating all business and personal income taxes in the state of Alabama will attract investment, foster job creation, encourage entrepreneurship, and enhance competition in the marketplace.

Section IV: Consequences

The expected outcome of this bill is for the elimination of all state income taxes to increase business activity, and job creation, improve competitiveness in the marketplace, ease cost of living, and attract out-of-state people and businesses.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be overseen by Alabama State Department of Revenue

Section VI: Payment

There will be no cost to this bill

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

All provisions within the existing tax code related to state income tax and con are repealed upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective January 1st, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming of law. If this bill is passed later it will take effect the next January 1st following it's becoming of law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H052

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Johnathan Heideman,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Breaking Even Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

I. Definitions

Hourly Pay- the amount an employee is paid per hour they work

Server(waitress/waiter)- a front-of-house restaurant employee who takes care of guests during the length of their visit, mainly by recording and fulfilling their food and drink orders.

Hourly Rates for Servers- \$2.13 per hour or about 3 cents per minute.

II. Description of Bill and Why

The pay for servers across the nation is more than 3 times less then the national minimum wage of \$7.25. I work in the restaurant industry and while I am not a server myself I have several coworkers and even friends that worry about how much they are gonna make that night. It's a struggle for not just them but for all servers. I know from experience and have been told that for them to break even on tax season they need to be paid at least \$4.25. So why increase the pay for everyone else while the pay for servers never changes

III. Specifications

1. Make all servers across the country have the minimum pay of \$4.50 an hour.
2. After 1 hour of no serving if the server is still on the clock then their pay will be increased to \$7.25 an hour.
3. Pay can be increased to whatever the business chooses.

IV. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

V. This act shall become effective IMMEDIATELY upon/after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H053

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Kate Güven,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Make Food Oases, not Food Deserts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Grocery tax is defined as a specific sales tax on grocery products.

Alabama's grocery tax is combined with sales taxes and local taxes. In some areas of Alabama, groceries are taxed by up to 10%.

Food deserts are areas where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (such as fruits and vegetables) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within traveling distance.

Section 2: Proposal

(1) The grocery tax in Alabama will be cut from 3 percent to 1 percent. The definition of "grocery" products in prior tax cuts will be expanded to include household products, hygiene products, and pet food alongside food products.

(2) A specific sales tax of 13 percent on tobacco products, such as vapes, cigars, and e-cigarettes, will be instated.

(3) The tax credit system will be expanded to further assist low-income families with needs impacted by grocery taxes.

Section 3: Justification

(1) According to the United States Census Bureau, Alabama is ranked seventh in states with the highest poverty rates, with 16 percent of state residents living below the poverty line.

(2) Many food deserts have developed in Alabama as a result of the combination of the high poverty rate and the high grocery tax. Residents within food deserts are unable to afford or access a wide variety of healthy and safe foods.

(3) Lowering the grocery tax will improve accessibility for all families and will lead to expansion of grocery chains in poorer communities. The United States Department of Agriculture explains that food deserts are combated by increased accessibility, and grocery stores and markets expand into these communities when their populations are able to afford higher-priced, healthier products.

(4) Expanding the tax credit system with refundable grocery tax credit will assist the needs of low and moderate income families. In Utah, a tax credit system has allowed for families to be refunded \$240 annually for grocery needs alone.

(5) On September 1st, 2023, the state grocery tax was cut from 4% to 3%. This cut has not had a major benefit to grocery accessibility. Grocery items not designated as "food" are still taxed at the original 4%. Items

not labeled as “food” under this designation include household products such as cleaning supplies, pet food, and hygiene products.

(6) The Alabama government has planned to propose a second cut to grocery taxes that will occur in September 2024, but this secondary cut will only lower the tax by 1%. Because it will align with the designations of the primary tax cut, it will only focus on food products, leaving a wide range of other grocery products still taxed at a higher rate.

(7) Increasing taxes on tobacco products will lead to a decrease in the use of these products in the Alabama population. Alabama is one of the states with a highest percentage of tobacco product users, and this issue will be combated with the increased tax.

Section 4: Funding

(1) The revenue lost from the cut in grocery tax will be balanced by a 13% tax on vapes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products. These products are currently taxed with uniform sales taxes, but there is no specific tax that targets these products at a higher rate. According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, 20 percent of adults are regular users of tobacco products.

(2) In 2019, the state of California raised taxes on cigarettes by 15%, and this resulted in an increase of revenue of over \$1 billion annually.

(3) In the primary tax cut of 4% to 3%, Alabama lost a smaller amount of revenue than projected, with a \$8.46 million monthly loss instead of the predicted \$12.7 million loss.

(4) The Department of Revenue will manage and measure the tax shifts and resulting losses and gains. Funding may be adjusted accordingly to consumption percentages and other necessities.

(5) Based on the exemplified results of other states and successes of the primary tax cut, the increase in tax on tobacco products is projected to replace grocery tax revenue.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted upon being signed into law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H054

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Benji Sokol,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Tax on Junk Food

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I Definitions:

Junk food: a food/drink that has 45% or more daily sugar and/or 10% or more saturated fats in one serving size (added)

Daily Value: The amount of nutrients to consume per day via the FDA

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Fresh Foods: any food item that is not processed

Section II Background:

The current tax on food in Alabama is at 3%. Alabama is one of the unhealthiest states in the union. According to the CDC in 2021, Alabama was ranked as the third most obese state in the Union following Kentucky and West Virginia. According to an article in January of 2023, from AL.com, the obesity rate in the state of Alabama has risen faster than the nation. From 2011 to 2021 the percent of the population that is obese rose 7.9 percentage points while as the nation as a whole it only rose by 6.2 points.

Section III: Proposition:

This proposal will raise the tax on junk foods to 6% while cutting the tax on fresh foods to 0%.

Section IV Justification:

This proposal will help Alabama become healthier because foods that are unhealthy will rise in price and deter people from purchasing them, while healthier foods will have a decrease in price that will encourage people to buy them. Leading a healthy life starts with a good diet. If people eat well then people will feel good and it will lead to a happier and healthier life. This will hopefully set a good example for other states in the Union to implement the same.

Section V: Implementation:

This bill will increase the tax on junk foods to 6% and cut the tax on fresh foods to 0%. The Alabama Department of Revenue will oversee this bill. There is no needed funding for this piece of legislation.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby declared null and void.

Section VII Enactment Clause:

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H055

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Eric Vo, Lucy Hwang

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Elimination of Sales Tax on Groceries

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Sales Tax: A percentage added to the price of goods and services when purchased and remitted to the government.
- Food Insecurity: The inability of individuals to access adequate food consistently due to financial constraints or other reasons.

Section II: Proposition

This bill proposes the complete removal of all taxes on grocery items. The intent is to alleviate the financial burden on citizens by eliminating the cost of essential goods and ensuring better access to food for all members of society.

Section III: Justification

Food is necessary for society to survive, and everyone should have access to it. Despite being in a developed country, it is crucial to recognize the significant challenges many face in accessing food. In Alabama alone, 746,550 individuals experience food insecurity annually, with 204,830 of them being children. This leads to Alabama having the fifth-highest rate of food insecurity in the country. Currently, one out of four of the people in Alabama struggle with food insecurity. Despite numerous local initiatives addressing this concern, meeting the food needs of such a large population requires resources, amounting to approximately \$461,137,000 annually. By exempting food items from the state sales tax, we can alleviate some of this financial burden and enhance food accessibility statewide. Furthermore, thirty-two states have acknowledged the importance of food access by offering tax breaks on grocery items. Alabama should align with the majority, recognizing that adequate food access is a fundamental human right.

Section IV: Funding

No funding is required for the enactment of this bill.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be overseen by the Alabama Department of Revenue.

Section VI: Severability Clause

Any existing laws or provisions conflicting with this bill will be nullified.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill will come into effect on January 1, 2025.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H056

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Grayson Haberecht,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A Living Wage is not Minimum Wage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Minimum Wage: The minimum a company can pay a person per hour.
- Federal Minimum Wage: The required minimum salary of \$7.25 an hour.
- Living Wage: A socially acceptable minimum level of income that provides money for necessities such as food, shelter, child services, and healthcare.
- Fair Labor Standards Act(FLSA): A Federal Statute setting the minimum wage across the country at \$7.25.
- Poverty Rate: The percentage of a state's population living in poverty or meeting the poverty standards.
- Poverty: The state standard that any family or individual receiveing a salary totaling less than or equal to the benchmark total for the number of people in their household.
- The Poverty Line: An idea that if a family or individual is below this income line, the person or persons live in poverty.
- Government-registered business: Any business formally registered with the Alabama Department of Labor.

Section II: Proposal

This bill would require all businesses in Alabama to pay all employees at least \$10.10 an hour within 6 months of this bill's signing. This bill would only apply to those actively employed or on a government-registered company's payroll. This bill does not affect unregistered businesses or employees on a predetermined salary.

Section III: Justification

The Alabama Minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour leaves many Alabamians working 9-5 jobs just above or at the poverty line. Alabama has not established a state minimum wage since 2009 when the Fair Labor Standards Act set the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per hour. A state minimum wage of at least \$10.10 would be sufficient to keep most Alabamians above the poverty line since they could afford goods and services necessary for their livelihoods more easily. In 2022 seven of Alabama's sixty-two counties had a poverty rate of more than 25%, and two counties had a poverty rate of higher than 30%. Baldwin and Shelby Counties were the only two counties with a poverty rate of less than 10%. According to the data collected by the U.S Census Bureau, Alabama was among the ten poorest states in the U.S. sitting at number seven.

According to the MIT Living Wage calculator, a publicly available source of information that calculates a minimum wage based on housing prices and the cost of local living, for a person working with no dependents,

a wage of \$13.77 is necessary. Since a wage of that amount would be quite detrimental to Alabama's small businesses that hire single entry-level employees, a few dollars cheaper is more realistic and plausible.

Section IV: Consequences

The only potential consequence of this bill is that small Alabama businesses may be unable to afford the new wage. Therefore, there is likely a slight rise in unemployment. However, this number will fall in the weeks to months following the passing of this bill.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Labor, which will monitor the wages being set across the state. This can be done easily with no extra manpower given that all businesses in the U.S. are required to deliver a quarterly report on wages. Any business that refuses or does not abide by the 6-month deadline will be fined \$100 a day for every employee not being paid the minimum wage in businesses with less than 20 employees, and \$1000 a day for any employee who does not receive the minimum wage from any business with 20 or more employees. Any fines collected will be redistributed to charities across Alabama dedicated to helping impoverished citizens.

Section VI: Payment

The businesses themselves will pay for this bill from their revenue. Corporate taxes will also be lowered from 6.5% to 4.5% for businesses that abide by this new standard to allow the companies to afford the new wages.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H057

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Grant Phillips, Andrew Shalayda

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Income Tax and Lottery Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Definitions:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - Standard measure of the value created through the production of goods and services in a country [or state] during a certain period.

Income Tax - Tax levied by a government directly on income.

Lottery - A means of raising money by selling numbered tickets and giving prizes to the holders of numbers drawn at random.

Section I: Purpose

This act will abolish income tax in Alabama and override the ban on lotteries within the state of Alabama's constitution.

Section II: Justification

Alabama ranks 27th in the nation in GDP and 10th among states in the South.

In order to remain economically competitive, Alabama needs to evolve its current policies in order to compete with neighboring states. Texas, Florida, and Tennessee all have already eliminated their state income tax and Mississippi passed legislation in 2022 to do the same. States without income tax are more likely to attract wealthy citizens who are able to create jobs therefore increasing Alabama's attractiveness.

The lost income would be mostly recovered through the establishment of a state lottery which is currently banned under section 1901 of Alabama's constitution. The profit from the lottery would be directed towards Alabama's education, which is currently ranked in the bottom 3% in the nation per various independent research data and national standardized testing scores.

Section III: Severability Clause

Any and all bills conflicting with this act will be repealed upon the governor's signing.

Section IV: Enactment

This bill is to be enacted at the beginning of the 2025 fiscal year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H058

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Hooker Cook,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Preventing the Opportunity for Tyranny Through State of Emergencies

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

State of Emergency: an event of danger or disaster in which the Governor suspends normal constitutional procedures in order to regain control.

Emergency Management Act of 1955: the Governor has the power to declare a state of emergency when there is a natural or man-made disaster, an attack on the United States, or a public health emergency that threatens the safety and welfare of the people of Alabama.

Section II: Background

When a state of emergency is declared by the Governor, normal constitutional power is suspended and all “necessary” power is given to the Governor. This creates an opportunity for The Executive to seize and abuse power. A prime example of this is, after declaring Rome to be in a state of emergency, Julius Caesar became dictator for life, which led to the fall of the Roman Republic.

Section III: Proposition

After 30 days of a declared state of emergency there will be a required normal legislative vote in order to renew the state of emergency for another 30 days.

Section IV: Justification

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Kay Ivey declared a state of emergency that lasted from March 18, 2020 to July 6, 2021. Our normal government and its embedded checks and balances were suspended for over a year. Although Governor Kay Ivey made no attempts at tyranny, the possibility exists for abuse of power. This bill reinstates an appropriate legislative check to the Executive Branch. The suspension of basic liberties should require a vote of the legislature within 30 days and not be left solely to the discretion of the Governor. “Even the ancients warned that democracies can degenerate toward autocracy in the face of fear” (Justice Neill Gorsuch).

Section V: Implementation

This bill will be executed and followed by both the Legislative and Executive branches of the Alabama Government through normal legislative procedures. There will be no extra funding required.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H059

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Reagan Mosolino,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Age Limit on Governor

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Age limit for governor

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Governor- the elected executive head of a state of the US.
- Limit- a point or level beyond which something does not or may not extend or pass.
- Age- the length of time that a person has lived or a thing has existed.
- Election- a formal and organized choice by vote of a person for a political office or other position.

Section II: Proposal

Once enacted, this bill gives the governor an age limit of 75 and would still maintain the requirement age of 30. This bill would go into effect after the term of the present governor. Anyone over 75 cannot run for governor and anyone under can't run if they turn 76 during their term.

Section III: Justification

The Gen Z generation is known to be more entrepreneurial and more open-minded compared to the other generations before them. For example, Kay Ivey is 79 and was born in the silent generation, that generation is 5 generations before Gen Z... This bill would be established to help governors be more open-minded toward new generations and understand new technology developed and new ideas invented.

More than half (58%) of Americans say that there should be a maximum age limit, while 21% say there should not be. Republicans (64%) are slightly more likely than Democrats (57%) and Independents (60%) to say there should be a maximum age requirement.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, there will be an age limit set for the governor to 75.

Section V: Enforcement

The State Executive Branch would enforce this by signing a bill stating that there would be an age limit for the governor of Alabama. If one of the candidates somehow is 76 and wins, they will be removed immediately.

Section VI: Payment

There is no payment required for this bill.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H060

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Anna Novellino,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Ending Maternity Care Deserts 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Maternity is the period during a pregnancy and motherhood.

Prenatal is the medical care given to pregnant women before their babies are born.

Maternity care desert is any county in the United States without a hospital or birth center.

Section 2: Proposal

Rural areas in Alabama will have available birthing facilities and maternity care providers. This bill allows the creation of a fund for hospitals to open branches in rural areas. Women will have access to regular telehealth for prenatal care using either live video or remote patient monitoring covered by Medicaid.

Section 3: Justification

The United States has a high maternal mortality rate. 34.3 percent of counties in Alabama are classified as maternity deserts. Monroe County, Shelby County, and Jefferson County have closed maternity units in the past year. This leaves over one million citizens without access to a birthing facility. Women in labor would have to drive over half an hour to a birthing center. 8.9 percent of births in Alabama are in maternity deserts, with only 0.2 percent of maternity care providers being in rural areas. The lack of maternity and prenatal care causes ongoing anxiety and depression in women. This lack of reproductive services continues to make Alabamian women vulnerable during pregnancy.

Section 4: Funding

The state's medical funds can be used to fund the program.

Section 5: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start of the next fiscal year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H061

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Zaire Ondaan,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Animal Cruelty Laws

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: A person commits the crime of aggravated cruelty to animals if the person intentionally or knowingly violates Section 13A-11-14 Aggravated cruelty to animals, and the act of cruelty or neglect involved the infliction of torture to the animal.

Financial Stability-The Stability and Financial state of any individual,Is determined by their monthly-yearly Income,Handle of Debt,Emergency Funds.(A stable financial system is capable of efficiently allocating resources, assessing and managing financial risks, maintaining employment levels close to the economy's natural rate, and eliminating relative price movements of real or financial assets that will affect monetary stability or employment levels)

Due Process-Upon The Fourteenth Amendment,which prohibits unlawful Federal and State Laws from abridging the privileges and immunities of citizens of the U.S.

-Nor shall any state deprive a person of life,liberty or property without due process of law or Deny any person within Jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

Household Pets-a lawfully domesticated animal owned by any individual for companionship including(dogs,cats,reptiles,rodents,birds) Not Including(horse, cow,sheep,goats,chicken,turkey etc).

Section II:Proposal

-This bill proposes that It Shall be Considered aggravated animal cruelty to keep more than two household pets, subject to exceptions and regulations provided herein.

-This Act will Require Pet Owners with a Previous Record of Animal abuse/cruelty to be presented before a Judge to show Improvement of Actions and a Stable Quality of Life to keep any current household pets in owner's care.

Not Attempting to Violate Due Process Rights of the Owner while giving a chance to see improvements.

Section III:Justification

-Notwithstanding Section 2 with this act,Those whom are financially stable and are deemed by a judge eligible are able to keep their set number of pets.

-By Limiting the Number of Pets Owned in a Household,I am attempting to control the rate under which animal abuse can occur making it more likely for animals in a packed or full household to be neglected. The size of any Animals/Pets Does play an important role within this Act.(From a Pet Dog - a Pet Parrot the size of pet does matter seeing as it's easier to harm an pet bird to an Dog)

Section IV:Enforcement

-If more than one pet was previously owned within a Household then any prior recorded case of animal abuse within the past 3 years of owning said pet will be revised and a trial held or set for a new possible court date depending on the individual's violated action.

You will be given the opportunity to present your case, why and how the incident occur and what did you do to benefit and work on improving the issue

Thus not violating Due Process Rights.

-Once Granted a Court Date He/She Shall Be Sent to a Judge to be Deemed before a Judge Eligible or Ineligible to maintain proper care of your pets.If you are Deemed Ineligible to keep pets you will be given an 30 Day Notice from the day of the court hearing,along with an 70-90 day notice discussing the matters and procedures in which will be taken to repossess guardianship of their pet. Under Lawful Enforcement Pets shall be taken and placed into a Temporary Shelter until their owners notice is up and represented at court date. Those who already have a repeated record or been to court regarding animal abuse will apply to Section 3.

Section V: Enactment & Process

- In Order to Regain His/Her Pets you will have a 90 Day Notice to Gain Proper Stability(Housing,Pet Care,Insurance and Proper Financial etc)After those days are up,They Shall be sent a Letter optional to set up a Court Date beneficial to them to prove an Increase in Quality of Life.

- Some Requirements to prove an proper increase in wellbeing and provided care are

-Income Increase,Mental/Emotional Care,Possible Government Assistance if needed,This bill will not apply to those in need of service pets as there are already laws in place for such.

- Immediately After the Court Date is Granted and you are deemed eligible to Maintain Housing of your pets. They shall be returned into the Original Care Holders Custody and given an New 30-Day Notice stating at the End of The Next Three Months there will be a scheduled visit by Court Marshalls for a Environmental Check.

This Bill shall Enact as of January 24, 2025.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H063

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Payton Moorer, Kaylyn Taylor

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Safe Food for Kids Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mXKolJRegFC_Vu7CbZkNDXtxlqN-GjppbORyrJ2LBn0/edit



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H064

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Charlotte Brown,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Fight Fentanyl with Public Access to Opioid Rescue Kits

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Fentanyl: A powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 100 times stronger than other opioids like heroin, morphine and oxycodone.

Public Access: Access where community-based, noncommercial organizations, groups or individual members of the general public, on a nondiscriminatory basis, are the primary users.

Opioid Rescue Kit: A box containing 2 doses of naloxone in misting nasal spray dispensers, instructions for use, and latex gloves.

Naloxone: A FDA approved opioid antagonistic- meaning it is a medicine that binds to opioid receptors and can block and reverse the effects of opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, morphine and oxycodone within minutes.

Section II: Background

Over 1 million Americans have died of an opioid overdose since the year 2000. Opioid overdose is the leading cause of death of Americans under 50. Upwards of 150 citizens die everyday from a fentanyl related overdose. In recent years, specifically in Alabama, there has been an alarming increase in these fentanyl related deaths. Data provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health indicates a dramatic surge in deaths from a total of 121 in Alabama during the year 2018 to a staggering 835 deaths in the year 2022.

Section III: Proposition

Opioid rescue kits will be placed in public places to increase the odds that when naloxone is needed it can be accessed and used by a bystander to save lives. The kits will be made available where AED(Automated External Defibrillators)kits are located along with other potential sites such as any private businesses that would like to install one(example-restaurants), blue light poles on college campuses, public schools, government buildings, shopping malls, concert venues, bars, hotels, fire stations, public beaches and more.

Section IV: Justification

Alabamians are in the midst of the worst drug crisis in the history of the United States and it is only going to get worse based on current trends. Fentanyl is inexpensive to manufacture and in 2021 the DEA(Drug Enforcement Agency)seized enough of the drug to kill every American. Just 2 milligrams, equivalent to 10 grains of table salt, is a lethal dose. Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often are sold on social media and e-commerce platforms making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.]They also can be disguised as gummies or candy to attract children. Fentanyl- you can't feel it, see it, smell it or taste it. One pill kills and we must make the drug naloxone widely available to stop this scourge on our

society. It is known that many times when a person overdoses there is another person or bystander around during the occurrence. Among youth overdoses 2 out of 3 cases have a bystander present. Naloxone is a safe FDA approved medicine with very few side effects. Expanding access to naloxone opioid rescue kits is one of the most impactful interventions in decreasing opioid related mortality. Other cities and states are successfully implementing similar programs. In 2016, as state regulations in Rhode Island became favorable to expanded access to naloxone, a non-profit organization(NaloxBox) was formed and partnered with other health organizations and has now distributed over 600 opioid rescue kits across the nation. In Philadelphia, a program called Narcan Near Me provides vending machine-like dispensers at city library branches. In addition, the Chicago Department of Health is providing opioid rescue boxes at public libraries.

Section V: Implementation and Funding

The cost of an opioid rescue kit box(similar to NaloxBox) is \$275 and a lifesaving dose of naloxone is \$20(generic wholesale price). Each kit would contain 2 doses of naloxone nasal spray, latex gloves and instructions for use. Funding will be available for replenishing the box as needed. This bill allocates funds for all 67 counties in Alabama. The number of boxes allocated per county is based on population as follows: 5,000-20,000 population = 20 boxes, 20,000-50,000 population = 25 boxes, 50,000-100,000 population = 30 boxes, 100,000-200,000 population = 35 boxes. 200,000+ population = 40 boxes. Funding will be generated from many available federal grants such as the Alabama Opioid Strategic Targeted Response(STR) Grant, and partnerships with the CDC(Centers for Disease Control)and the federal agency SAMHSA(Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). In addition, funds will be made available through Alabama Medicaid coverage. Medicaid already covers the cost of naloxone for low income individuals. Installation and maintenance of the rescue kit boxes will be overseen and implemented by the Alabama Department of Public Health. Each county health department will be charged with choosing appropriate locations for the boxes and monthly maintenance.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective on January 1st, 2025 upon approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H065

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Gracie Everly,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Dignity in Death

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Assisted Suicide- a procedure in which people take medications to end their own lives with the help of others, typically medical professionals
- PAS- an abbreviation of the term physician-assisted Suicide
- Suicide- the act of intentionally causing one's death.
- Consent- permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
- Diagnosis- the identification of the nature of an illness or other problem by examination of the symptoms.
- Terminally ill-Terminal illness or end-stage disease is a disease that cannot be cured or adequately treated and is expected to result in the death of the patient.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will legalize Assisted Suicide by a medical issue in the State of Alabama if the person is terminally ill or has a diagnosis and is capable of making informed decisions

Section III: Justification

This bill should be enacted because it allows terminally ill people or people with a diagnosis to safely and respectfully take their own life with the help of someone who is certified to do so. Similar laws have already been passed in the United States. States include Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington State, Arizona, Maine, Vermont, New Jersey and Colorado. "According to California's State Department of Public Health report, 452 individuals received prescriptions and 337 people died after ingestion of the medication between 1/1 and 12/21/18." Many people decide to end their lives with PAS and said physicians are often charged with Manslaughter because in certain states it is illegal, Even if the person had consented. This will allow Medical professionals to safely help patients without having to worry about being charged or having to worry if it is being done safely or consensually.

Section IV: Consequences

If the State of Alabama passes this bill, the expected outcome is that medical professionals, with the consent of the patient and approved written request confirming a diagnosis and the consent of the patient, will be able to administer life-ending drugs to people.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama State Department of Health will enforce this bill through certain hospitals that will provide the medicine, professionals, and paperwork/consent approval.

Section VI: Payment

There will be no payment for this Bill. Physician-assisted suicide would be covered by insurance because it is medical or health-related.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H066

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Kate Robertson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Energy Drinks as a Controlled Substance and Legal Age

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section II: Terms

Energy Drink: a type of drink containing stimulant compounds which is marketed as providing physical and mental stimulation. These drinks may or may not be carbonated, often include sugar and other sweeteners, and a multitude of other possible ingredients. (ex: Monster, Red Bull, Celsius, NOS, etc.)

Controlled Substance: a drug, chemical, or substance whose manufacture, use, and possession is regulated by a government.

Legal Age: an age in which a person may legally engage in a certain activity, or purchase or possess a certain product or substance.

Insomnia: a sleep disorder

Section II: Purpose

A bill to admit energy drinks as a controlled substance due to the effects on health. Furthermore, this bill would implement a legal age of eighteen for purchasing, possession, and consumption of energy drinks.

Section III: Justification

Energy drinks became widely popular in the early 2000s due to their brightly colored cans, energizing liquid, and social media popularity. Energy drinks target teenagers and young adults as their primary consumer. However, these beverages are extremely harmful to a person's health and may result in numerous side effects, especially when consumption is at such a young age. Examples of these side effects are insomnia, abnormal heart rates, increased blood pressure, anxiousness, addiction, seizures, and many more. There have even been instances reported in which these seizures required emergency care. Additionally, consuming energy drinks can lead to mood fluctuations, stress, panic attacks, and even suicidal ideations - all of which can impact others. Therefore, a legal age of eighteen for purchasing, possession, and consumption of this beverage would not only be beneficial for the health of high school students, but it would also benefit their peers.

Section IV: Enforcement

Since the effects of energy drinks are not as detrimental as alcohol, the repercussions would not be as severe. However, if an energy drink is found in the possession of a minor or can be proven to have been consumed by said minor, a warning will be issued. If a second offense is found, a fine of \$200 will be administered. If a third offense occurs, said minor faces a minimum of 20 hours of community service.

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: This act shall become effective January 1st, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H067

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sam Eagan,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Death with Dignity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

-Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)- also known as euthanasia, MAID is a process in which a physician provides a competent adult with a terminal illness with a prescription for a lethal dose of a drug, which must be self-administered, to end suffering and achieve a peaceful death.

-Self-Administered- to do or take something yourself that would normally be done or given by someone else.

Section II: Background

As of now, 10 US states have implemented laws making MAID legal: Maine, New Jersey, Vermont, New Mexico, Montana, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii. In Alabama, MAID and any bill like it are currently against common law and are viewed as a Class A felony. According to the Alabama Department of Health, Alabama has the 3rd highest percentage of heart-related deaths, with an estimated 12,000 residents dying due to these diseases each year. Alabama also has 1.3 million, or 17.8%, of its population above the age of 65 (especially vulnerable to life-ending illnesses such as cancer or heart disease).

Section III: Proposal

This bill makes MAID legal in the state of Alabama. The requirements for this include being over the age of 18, having an estimated 6 months left to live, being mentally competent, making multiple verbal requests for euthanasia, and a patient being able to self-administer the life-ending drugs. Along with that, MAID will be a completely optional program and will require permission from at least two physicians.

Section IV: Justification

In Alabama, when someone is faced with a terminal illness, they have nothing left to do but wait for death to occur. With a system like MAID in place, Alabamians will be able to control when they would like to stop suffering. In the state of Alabama, which has a large population of senior citizens and is currently in a cardiac health crisis, it is vitally important that a bill like this be implemented. With this bill in place, Alabama will become a leader in the fight for death rights in the United States and could potentially influence neighboring states in the South to make MAID legal. Additionally, this bill does not force anyone who fits the requirements to undergo MAID; it just offers an option.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) will help enforce this bill and distribute special life-ending drugs to hospitals around the state. Under their jurisdiction, MAID will cost an estimated \$3000 for the

patient. While Medicaid and Medicare will not apply to MAID, insurance will be applicable depending on the company.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H068

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Bebe Neeley,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Alabama Substance Abuse Treatment Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION I: Definitions

Surcharge: an additional charge or payment

Retail Store: any retail outlet, storefront, or online retail outlet engaged in whole, or in part, in the sell of packaged alcoholic beverages

Substance Abuse: over-indulgence in or dependence on an addictive substance, especially alcohol or drugs

Addiction: a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences.

SECTION II: Proposal

This bill will establish a fund to aid those suffering from substance abuse in getting treatment, specifically in-patient rehab.

SECTION III: Justification

This bill will provide funds for rehabilitation for those who are addicted to alcohol and drugs. Although there are currently programs in place to assist those struggling with substance abuse, this bill will allow first-time and returning applicants who meet certain qualifications to receive a grant that will cover the entire cost of detox and in-patient rehabilitation.

Many substance abusers are unable to get clean and sober in outpatient care due to the environment they live in and the people they are surrounded by. Others cannot get into inpatient care simply because of the cost or their rejection by other programs. While intensive outpatient treatment can have the advantage of a longer duration of treatment over time, inpatient care is able to deliver many more treatment services (group sessions, education, individual sessions) in a shorter period of time. This bill would give many substance abusers the opportunity to help themselves by alleviating the cost associated with the detox and subsequent in-patient rehabilitation. Addiction is a disease and addicts cannot get better without the proper care necessary.

SECTION IV: Funding and Oversight

To provide funding, a five cent surcharge per twelve ounces of alcoholic beverage sold would be collected. This bill would apply to any beverage containing alcohol that can be sold in a retail store or online. This would include beer, wine, and seltzers.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health would administer and regulate this bill.

SECTION V: Conflicting Laws

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION VI: Enactment

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H069

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Jaja Gancayco,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: To Be Beautiful Inside and Out

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Carcinogen: a substance, organism, or agent capable of causing cancer

Cosmetic: a product applied to the body to improve its appearance

Section II: Purpose

This bill is to include warning labels on cosmetic products containing any sort of carcinogen.

Section III: Justification

In recent years, a newfound trend in cosmetics has emerged. Factors such as social media and the influence of friends and family also partake in the youthful array of intrigue for beauty. Statistics show that 47% of U.S. customers have purchased because of social media and 58% have an interest in doing so. Many buy products purely because it would “not break them out” or “clear up their skin.” Price is also a heavy factor in what product one would buy, especially if it is supposedly low compared to the quality of the product.

However, only a few of the new generation of consumers would look into the ingredients of cosmetic products, and only a smaller percentage could pick out which products were detrimental to their overall health, not just their skin.

A carcinogen is a substance that is capable of causing cancer. Carcinogens promote the production of mutations in a cell’s DNA, and repeated use of them could result in dire conditions of health, some even causing or leading to cancer. Although common carcinogens are characterized to be found in things such as ultraviolet rays and cigarette smoke, many cosmetic products contain them. The products range from haircare to baby products. Because some individuals may not know the long-term consequences of using carcinogens or even that the product has a carcinogen, their quality of life in the future could be affected. Illnesses such as cancer have multiple factors contributing to one’s diagnosis, and the state of health that a person is in is always emphasized to be a determining cause of how bad their condition is and how easy it is for them to recover. To prevent repeated use of carcinogens is to remove a factor that can change the overall well-being of one’s future.

Knowledge is the first factor in preventing the effects of carcinogens. This is why there should be warning labels added to products informing consumers that the product they intend to buy contains carcinogens. This way, awareness of what one puts on their skin is spread and more caution is applied when looking for products.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

The funding for this bill would be overseen by the company/store that would be manufacturing the product.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H070

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sophie Hicks,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Acting NOW(S): An Act to Improve Care for Infants Born Addicted to Narcotics

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Opioid Use Disorder: the chronic use of opioids that causes clinically significant distress or impairment

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome: condition in which an infant displays withdrawal-like symptoms due to in utero opiate exposure

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: group of conditions in which an infant displays withdrawal-like symptoms due to polysubstance exposure in utero

Level III/ Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: a specialized unit in a hospital that treats infants needing specialized care. Level III/ Level IV classification indicates the NICU is equipped with a full range of pediatric medical specialties, respiratory support, as well as staff and equipment to provide life support as long as necessary

Immunoassay Urine Screen: urinary drug test that uses antibodies to detect the presence of common drugs of abuse including alcohol, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, marijuana, and cocaine based on a predetermined cutoff threshold

GC/MS Urine Screen: "gold standard" urinary drug test often used to confirm the presence of a drug after a positive result from immunoassay

Section II: Background

With twice the national average of opioid use disorder ("OUD") diagnosis, Alabama has been heavily affected by the ongoing opioid epidemic. Consequently, the public health crisis has resulted in an increase of pregnant women using opioids; the incidences of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome ("NOWS") and neonatal abstinence syndrome ("NAS") have increased substantially. From 2004 to 2014, the incidence of NOWS increased from 2.5 to 8.0 per 1000 hospital births, a 433% increase.

Not only at risk for premature birth, infants with NAS/NOWS have difficulty feeding, learning, and sleeping as well as being at a greater risk for developmental, behavioral, educational, and psychological issues later in life without early intervention.

Disproportionately affecting rural populations, an increasing number of infants are born addicted to opioids and other drugs in facilities inadequately prepared to treat them.

To be treated effectively, infant care requires a Level III or Level IV neonatal intensive care unit ("NICU"). Though there are locations in Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Dothan, and Mobile, there are no NICUs in rural areas with adequate resources to treat children with NOWS/NAS.

Section III: Proposition

In addition to education requirements, the Alabama Department of Health shall require universal screening of drugs during the first prenatal healthcare visit of each trimester. Maternal urine shall be first tested using an immunoassay technique. If the test is positive, a subsequent GC/MS urine screen shall be administered to confirm the presence of the drug(s) of abuse. A positive test result shall not be used as evidence for prosecution or as evidence for issuance of a warrant. If a pregnant person tests positive for drugs of abuse, then they shall be offered rehabilitation treatments. Positive test results shall be included in the mother's medical file and the child's once established. Given a positive test result, pregnant persons and born/unborn infants shall be transferred to the nearest hospital equipped with a Level III or Level IV NICU as soon as possible after labor begins. Under no circumstances shall mother and infant(s) be transferred later than 48 hours after birth.

Section IV: Justification

With approximately 10% of annual births in the United States affected by illicit drugs and alcohol, it is integral that measures be taken to improve both maternal and infant health.

By implementing universal prenatal drug testing, a greater number of children will be saved from the harrowing echo of the opioid crisis. Early treatment can help to extinguish debilitating future behavioral, physical, and psychological impairments as well as improve infant health.

Without early risk detection, withdrawing infants—especially those born in rural areas—are stranded in facilities lacking adequate medical care. Death rates from OUDs are higher in rural areas, and with the continuing rise in opioid use, it is essential that rural populations be provided with adequate resources and treatment opportunities.

Section V: Implementation

In tandem with a board composed of neonatologists and obstetricians of Alabama's leading medical centers, the Alabama Department of Health shall write a procedure and an informational brochure on NAS/NOWS. The standard procedure and information shall be updated every five years. The Alabama Department of Health shall mandate universal urine testing procedures as defined in Section III. For uninsured pregnancies, the legislature shall allocate a sum of \$750,000 per year for maternal and infant treatment from the Department of Health's appropriations from the State of Alabama General Fund.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H071

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Abby Garmany,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: A bill to fund the care of indigent patients in Alabama public hospitals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

DEFINITIONS:

Indigent- lacking necessities due to poverty.

Rural- of or relating to the country.

SECTION 1:

This bill will provide funding to Alabama hospitals for the care they provide to indigent people. This funding will give much needed financial support to hospitals in Alabama.

SECTION 3:

Failure to provide needed support to Alabama's hospitals will result in additional hospital closures, resulting in long wait times at remaining hospitals and extended travel times for very sick patients in rural areas.

SECTION 4:

Funding would come from what is called a "sin tax" on items such as tobacco, alcohol, and vape products. Additionally, funding could be secured through a complete state expense review to look for wasteful spending, including governmental staffing.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective October 1, 2024, after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H072

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Isabella Shin,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Stop the Hate

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Hate Crime: a crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or similar grounds.

Law Enforcement Officer: a government employee appointed to enforce the law, such as a police officer or sheriff.

Certification: an official document attesting to a status or level of achievement.

Section II: Proposal

The bill will prioritize the certification of law enforcement officers against hate crimes and enable them to make more informed decisions in the future when confronted with such offenses.

Section III: Justification

Bias is a human phenomenon and instances of prejudice against different races, religions, and other minority groups are persistent throughout American history. Although we have come a long way as a country, discrimination and stereotypes are still prominent within our society. Hate crimes are illegal acts that are motivated by prejudice. Though race and religion are the most common sources of hate crimes today, it takes on many different forms. Since 2010, the FBI has received reports from law enforcement agencies of about 6,000 hate crime events each year. However, according to government studies, the actual figure is much higher – 260,000 annually. Because the victims are unwilling to contact the authorities, many hate crimes go unreported. In Alabama alone, the hate crime rates have risen significantly from year to year, the most recent count in 2023 being 244. An approach to influence change in the community and support individuals who are victimized by hate crimes is to make it mandatory for law enforcement personnel to receive training on recognition and understanding of these crimes. Officers would gain a more comprehensive understanding of how to use techniques and methods to handle incidents of hate crimes in a non-combative manner, observe the warning signs of hate crimes firsthand, and learn about law enforcement practices such as the reporting, documentation, and procedures for these crimes. This certification goes for opposing hatred and speaking out to encourage inclusiveness and tolerance across Alabama.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

Private and public partnerships for providing necessary funding will be encouraged. The ALEA (Alabama Law Enforcement Agency) will oversee the certification of its law enforcement officers and organize a training schedule. The LECC (Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee) has undertaken activities and initiatives to

enhance crime prevention and awareness campaigns. A “Stop the Hate” grant will be issued from the LECC to provide training and services to law enforcement officers to facilitate understanding of hate incidents and hate crime prevention measures.

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H073

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Ansley Gilbert,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Not Voting is Voting

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Abstain- formally decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion
- Jury- a body of people (typically twelve in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court

Section II: Proposal

This bill proposes the ability for jurors in the state of Alabama to abstain from the vote in both criminal and civil cases. Any juror who is unable to decide how they will vote will be allowed to not cast their vote, and therefore not be counted in the final decision. For example, in a jury of 12 jurors, if 2 decide to abstain from the final vote, the final vote will be out of 10, not 12.

. A juror may only abstain from the vote if they have been present for all days of trial, and went through the correct jury selection process before the trial began. Any jurors wanting to abstain must declare so the trial has taken place during deliberation. Because the jurors will have gone through the jury selection process, there is not likely to be any jurors who will be wanting to abstain from the vote before the trial begins. This helps ensure that this will be an option for jurors that simply cannot decide, not a way for jurors to be given an easy way out of voting.

Section III: Justification

This bill should be enacted to lessen the number of mistrials in the Alabama Courts. As of right now, approximately 1 in 10 cases result in a mistrial. Any jury that cannot decide on a vote, or is considered "hung" is also considered to be a mistrial. Any juror that cannot decide on a vote can cause a hung jury.

Allowing a juror to abstain from the vote will not allow a hung jury, because it would remove the juror from the vote. This bill would allow only jurors who are certain in their vote to cast their vote in a trial, which will decrease, or even stop hung juries from occurring, and greatly lessen the number of mistrials in Alabama Courts.

Section IV: Consequences

The expected consequences of this bill include less jurors coming forward after trials have ending and saying that they have changed their mind about their vote. This, and many other ways that juries can change their minds, are cause for a mistrial. Any trial that could be determined to be a mistrial must be tried again with a second jury, which is expensive for Alabama Courts. This bill will lessen the number of mistrials and decrease the number of hung juries

Section V: Enforcement

This bill would be enforced by the Alabama Government by informing the members of the jury of their right to abstain from the vote when the jurors deliberate their final decision. The choice to withdraw from the vote is up to the decision of the individual juror, but the state government would enforce this by simply informing the jurors of their rights.

Section VI: Funding

This bill requires no additional funding.

Section VII: Conflicting Bills

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H074

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Kelcie Dowling,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: There is a better way

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Alabama Dept. of Revenue: This department manages services for both individual and business taxpayers in the state of Alabama.

No-Kill Shelters: a shelter or rescue that has at least a 90% placement rate for the animals in their care where the other 10% of animals have incurable illnesses and are at risk of spreading it to other animals in the shelter.

Euthanization: put (a living being, especially a dog or cat) to death humanely.

Sterilization (spay and neutering): surgery to make an animal unable to produce offspring.

Section II: Background

In 2022 alone, 15,422 dogs and cats were killed in Alabama shelters. There are several programs that fight for the rights of these innocent animals but without proper funding from the Alabama government there is little that can be done. In Alabama, only 31% of animal shelters are currently no-kill shelters. This leaves over half of the shelters in Alabama to euthanize the excess animals which enter their shelters. These alarming statistics can be reduced through the enactment of the state goal of moving toward 100% no-kill shelters.

Section III: Proposition

Alabama will achieve no kill in all animal shelters within the next 10 years. The state will fund these no kill shelters through the implementation of an additional 4% tax on all tobacco and alcohol products. This tax will ensure that the government has enough money to provide the shelters in Alabama with the supplies and veterinary care needed to maintain a no kill shelter. In order to ensure that this implementation remains realistic, there will also be an increase in government funding to various grants which promote a current program which is in place in the state of Alabama which helps fund the sterilization of stray animals through the sale of specialized license plates. Through the government's funding toward advertising this program, the amount of stray animals in the state of Alabama will decrease and therefore less animals will need the care of a shelter.

Section IV: Justification

In Alabama, there is a program called "The Spay/Neuter License Plate Program" which has been mildly successful in the reduction of euthanization of animals by directly offsetting the cost of the surgeries. Through this program, people can purchase specialized license plates. The money made from the sale of these license plates goes directly to various veterinary offices across the state of Alabama who provide reduced cost spay and neutering services. This program has the potential to be very powerful but needs to be advertised. Since

2008, this program has only raised one million dollars. With the promotion of this program by the state of Alabama, that number can increase dramatically.

The spaying and neutering of stray animals will decrease the number of innocent animals killed each year in shelters that do not have enough money to care for them. It will not eliminate all of the excess animals which is why the government will implement an additional tax on tobacco and alcohol products and give this money to shelters across the state. These shelters will then be able to support all of the remaining animals and thus become no-kill shelters.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Revenue will oversee the implementation of this legislation. They will confirm that the taxes being collected are on the correct products and that the money is being used to fund no-kill animal shelters.

A committee composed of 3 members from each house of the State Legislature, 2 representatives of the Alabama Department of Revenue, will be headed by the current head of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. This committee will be picked and meet every 4 years to reassess the need for these measures, reporting their findings and making recommendations to the State Legislature for renewal, alteration, or the repealing of this legislation.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon January 1, of the year following the approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H076

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Mary Hansen,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Limit of Number of Dogs Per Household 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

An urban area is defined as an area that has at least 5,000 people or 2,000 housing units.

An adult dog refers to a dog older than 18 months.

Section 2: Proposal

1. A limit of six adult dogs per household is to be placed on homes located in urban areas.
2. Violators of this law must pay a \$1500 fine and remove dogs from their home until they reach six or fewer.
3. Homes that are exceeding this limit when the law goes into effect will be able to keep their dogs but will not be able to receive any more.

Section 3: Justification

Dogs can be a great addition to an owner's life, but they have many needs. They need adequate attention, space, and training. If they are in an overcrowded home, then they will likely miss out on these things. A lack of proper care can lead to destructive behavior and aggression in dogs. Too many dogs in a populated area can also lead to neighbor complaints. Owners could spread themselves thin attempting to care for a multitude of dogs. Limiting the number of dogs in a home ensures the safety and well-being of both the dogs and the owners.

Section 4: Funding

The Alabama Department of Justice can fund the enforcement of this law. The Alabama government can also use animal rescue/welfare grants awarded by charities to pay for the humane movement of dogs from out of crowded houses.

Section 5: severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law at the start of the next fiscal year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H077

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Gray Smith,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Nick Saban Remebrance Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Nick's Kids Foundation is a non profit organization established by Nick and Terry Saban, which helps distribute grants to aid student, teacher, and family concerns.

2011 Tuscaloosa-Birmingham Tornado came through Tuscaloosa April 27th, 2011 and destroyed around 12% of the city, causing around \$1,500,000,000 in damages

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that constructs homes for people in need

Section 2: Proposal

This bill proposes to establish a state holiday for Nick Saban on January 4th, the day of his hiring as head coach at the University of Alabama football team, to honor his contributions to the state of Alabama.

Section 3: Justification

1. Since 2007, The University of Alabama's enrollment has increased by an estimated 60%, rising from around 25,000 students to 40,000.
2. The University of Alabama had 63% in-state students and 27% out-of-state students in 2007. As of Nick Saban's retirement in 2024, The University of Alabama's student body consists of 57.9% of out-of-state students and 42.1% of in-state students, bringing in a large amount of money into the state.
3. The Nick's Kids Foundation has raised over \$12,000,000 for over 150 charities and organizations.
4. Throughout Nick Saban's tenure at Alabama, the population of Tuscaloosa grew by around 11,000 residents. Similarly, the median housing prices in Tuscaloosa have risen by an estimated \$87,900 since 2007.
5. After the 2011 Tuscaloosa-Birmingham Tornado, Nick Saban pledged to build a Habitat for Humanity home for each college football national championship that the University of Alabama won. As of 2024, Nick Saban has built 19 Habitat for Humanity Homes with an extra home being built to honor the Tide winning SEC championship.

6.

Section 4: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 5: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start of the next year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H078

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): MaryEllis Killough, Izzy Papas

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Banning the Practice of Declawing Cats in Alabama

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I- Definitions

- Declawing- the surgical removal of the claws, which are adhered to the phalange bones of cats.
- Invasive surgery- operative procedures in which skin, tissue, bone, etc. are incised or an instrument is introduced through a natural body orifice.
- Phantom pain- perception of pain or discomfort in a limb that is no longer there.
- Inhumane- without compassion for misery or suffering.
- ASPCA- American Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty

Section II: Proposal

This bill is intended to prohibit the practice of declawing cats in Alabama, unless it is necessary for the cat's physical medical condition, as it is an inhumane and unnecessary surgery.

Section III: Justification

Cat claws assist with mobility and climbing as well as defense and hunting. Since they are such a vital part of their bodies, cats are always trying to maintain them. Owners request to remove the claws in order to prevent damage to themselves and their property, but this ultimately does more damage to the cat. As opposed to reasonable regular trimmings at clinics, many cat owners choose to declaw their cats in surgery. This operation removes the bones at the top of the feline's toes and also severs the ligaments. This invasive surgery can result in nerve damage, phantom pain, pain from bone fragments left behind or arthritis, and behavior issues such as an aversion to litter boxes and increased aggression. Subjecting our own pets to this treatment is not only unnecessary but inhumane.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill will fine 1,000 dollars to all clinics or other facilities that practice declawing. If this crime is repeated, the offender will be fined 2,000. The offender or offending practice will possibly face imprisonment if actions are repeated after previous fines.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by ASPCA.

Section VI: Payment

This bill requires no monetary funding.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H079

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sophia Self,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Outlawing the Killing of Healthy Animals in Shelters

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Kill shelter: a shelter that accepts all animals and allows euthanization once the shelter becomes overcrowded

No-kill shelter: a shelter that saves 90% of its animals

Animal euthanasia: legal killing of animals

Section II: Background

Alabama is the nation's 5th worst state when it comes to putting down animals in shelters. In Alabama, 61 out of 92 shelters are kill shelters, and in 2020, 16,825 dogs and cats were euthanized. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many families went through financial hardships and had to give up their pets. Now shelters are overflowing with pets, and killing many animals due to the overcrowding. The Greater Birmingham Humane Society (GBHS) had a euthanasia rate of 51% in 2017, many of those being treatable animals, despite having foster families willing to take them in.

Section III: Proposition

This bill will require shelters to save at least 75% of all healthy animals.

Section IV: Justification

Many animals are killed due to overcrowding in shelters, but this problem could be solved if more animals were spayed and neutered. In fact, spaying (\$175) and neutering (\$135) costs significantly less than euthanization (\$300). In addition to spaying and neutering, there are many alternative solutions to stop overcrowding in shelters instead of killing animals. They can be put into foster programs, relocated to other shelters, or be given to rescue groups. It is also unethical to kill healthy animals in shelters. They are not suffering, so they should not die because of things that are not their fault, like financial hardship or overcrowded shelters.

Section V: Implementation

The Department of Public Health will oversee this legislation.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H080

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): James Puckett,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Confederate Monument Removal Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Confederate States of America (CSA), or simply, The Confederacy- An entirely unrecognized breakaway republic of 11 southern states, (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee) that was declared from February 8, 1861 to May 9, 1865. Civil War- The four-year war fought from 1861 to 1865 between the United States and the eleven breakaway states that formed the Confederacy that was predominantly caused by tensions over the institution of slavery in America and the politics and economics of that system.

Slavery (in the USA)- The legal institution of human chattel slavery, comprising the enslavement of primarily Africans and African Americans from the country's founding in 1776 to the end of the Civil War in 1865, predominantly in the South.

Section II: Background

Since the late 19th century, statues and monuments glorifying the Confederacy have been erected in Alabama. According to a report by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Alabama has 175 symbols commemorating the Confederacy, 56 of which are statues and monuments on public land. The majority of these statues and monuments were not created in the years immediately following the Civil War, but decades afterwards during the Jim Crow era of Alabama and the Civil Rights movement to purposely marginalize African Americans in our state, and to discourage desegregation and equal rights.

Section III: Proposition

The Confederate Monument Removal and Relocation Act will mandate the removal of any and all statues and monuments on public land that glorify the Confederacy, or statues and monuments of leaders in the Confederate government and military. These monuments will be removed from public land and placed into museums or other academic institutions that will be able to provide the adequate historical context that surround them. This act does not apply to plaques that mark the location of a battle or otherwise important event in the Civil War.

Section IV: Justification

Statues and monuments are meant to symbolize the honor and greatness that a person has or event contributed to history. Unfortunately, Alabamians are surrounded by statues and monuments dedicated to people who fought to preserve and perpetrated the active enslavement, torture, family separation, sexual harassment and murder of African Americans. There is no honor and no greatness in this. These statues, many

of which were put up in times of civil unrest due to the cruel Jim Crow laws passed in Alabama, are symbols of racism that were intended to and continue to marginalize and glorify the dehumanization of an entire race of people. They must be taken down and moved to museums and other such places where their context and real history can be understood if we as Alabamians want to ensure the safety and happiness of all people in our state, regardless of their background.

Section V: Implementation

This act will allot 2 calendar years (commencing immediately upon passage) for municipalities to plan the removal of monuments on public land within their borders. This will provide ample time for collaboration with museums, academic institutions, the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and other institutions to determine where the statue or monument will be moved. Statues located in areas belonging to no municipality will be the responsibility of the county seat to remove. For example, a monument located in Jefferson county in no particular municipality would be the responsibility of the city of Birmingham (the county seat) to move. Failure to remove monuments and statues at the closure of the 2 year period will result in fines of up to \$35,000 USD, and the forced removal and relocation by an outside party, which will have to be compensated by the municipality in question. If passed, the 2 year period would be projected to end February 26, 2026.

Section VI: Severability Clause

This act will override all conflicting laws upon its signing by the Governor.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H081

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Auburn-Auburn High School

Author(s): Harleigh Walker,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Give clocks a break Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SECTION I - PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to make Daylight Saving Time the year-round standard in Alabama, eliminating the need for clock changes twice a year. This change aims to improve energy efficiency, enhance public safety, and provide a consistent time standard for residents and businesses.

SECTION II - JUSTIFICATION

The current practice of transitioning between Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time has been associated with disrupted sleep patterns, increased accidents, and challenges in energy conservation. By adopting permanent Daylight Saving Time, Alabama seeks to address these issues, create a safer environment, and streamline timekeeping practices for the benefit of its residents and businesses.

SECTION III - DEFINITIONS

- "Daylight Saving Time" (DST) shall be defined as the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during the warmer months, typically from spring to fall.
- "Standard Time" shall be defined as the time observed during the cooler months, typically from fall to spring, without the adjustment of Daylight Saving Time.
- "Public Safety" shall be defined as measures and practices aimed at safeguarding the well-being of individuals and property.

SECTION IV - FUNDING

This bill does not require any additional funding.

SECTION V - PENALTIES/ENFORCEMENT

No penalties are imposed by this bill. Compliance is expected to be voluntary, with residents and businesses encouraged to adjust their schedules in accordance with the adoption of permanent Daylight Saving Time.

SECTION VI - EFFECTIVE DATE

This bill shall take effect on March 9th, 2025, as that is the date daylight saving time is set to begin in 2025, following the Alabama governor's approval.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H082

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Akshaya Peddi,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Legal Immigration - Let Spouses Work

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Legal Immigrants - Foreign-born people legally admitted to the United States
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) - Document proving to employers that immigrants can legally be hired to work in the United States
 - VISA - An endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period in a country
- H-1 VISA - Applies to employers seeking to hire non-immigrant aliens as workers in specialty occupations or as fashion models of distinguished merit and ability
 - H-4 VISA - A non-immigrant visa/status category for dependents (spouse or children) of H-1 visa holders
- Green Card - A permit allowing a foreign national to live and work in the US
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) - An organization that oversees immigration to the United States and approves or denies immigrant petitions and more
- Department of State - Manages the issuance of visas, but customs officials at the border determine who will be permitted to enter the country
- Marriage License - The license indicates that the individuals met the legal requirements for marriage, such as age, identity, and eligibility
 - Marriage - The legal union of individuals
 - Spouse - An individual lawfully married to another individual
- I-140 Form - A form that U.S. employers use to request permanent residency for foreign workers in specific job categories

Section II: Proposal

Due to the amount of time it takes for an EAD to be approved and accepted, this bill would, once enacted, allow married, legal immigrants to obtain an EAD immediately upon arrival if they have both an approved VISA and a spouse who is already a legal immigrant. When entering Alabama, spouses of legal immigrants could join the workforce and gain access to employment opportunities with no waiting process.

Section III: Justification

At this moment, spouses of legal immigrants can hold an H-4 VISA which allows them to live in America. However, the legal immigrants, themselves, have an H-1 Visa which is known as a work VISA. This means legal immigrants can come to America to get a job, while their spouses cannot work. To pursue a Green Card, the

legal immigrant must apply for an I-140, which verifies the Green Card application. The legal immigrant needs to apply for an I-140 for their spouse, leaving the spouse completely dependent.

A marriage license shows the legal bond between spouses. Checking their identity proves their eligibility to obtain a VISA. Legal immigrants are authorized to enter America because they have an approved VISA. Since marriage licenses legally bind spouses regardless of their immigration status; there is no justification to deny these immigrants a work permit, EAD, during the Green Card review process.

Many immigrants come to America for various opportunities such as jobs and education. In certain circumstances, the legal immigrant is the sole provider for the household. This puts extreme pressure on the families that have already been stressed about entering a new, unknown country that has a different set of rules and regulations. This new immigrant has to provide resources, money, and a place to live for the entire family. By providing the spouse of the legal immigrant with a work permit, the government can greatly reduce their stress and hopefully double the resources the family can receive. This scenario can make the immigrants stronger and able to manage the difficulties of entering a new nation.

If this bill is passed, the immigrants affected will contribute to the economy by paying taxes and buying properties like other residents, and increasing Alabama's revenue. The immigrants would occupy more jobs, which would lower the unemployment rate in Alabama. Overall, this bill would allow more legal immigrants and skilled workers to enter the United States.

The government is trying to save money wherever it can in today's economy as there is a constant need for more money. Granting work permits to spouses of legal US residents can help with this problem, as it can cut down on spending by the USCIS. Whenever a spouse of a legal resident enters the country and applies for an EAD, the bill spends anywhere from a few months to years in review. All this could be changed by complying and letting spouses work, and not only would families make much more money, but the net gain for the government would be huge.

Currently, immigrants need to wait around 90 days or longer to process these work permits. Overall, this process can take months before a legal spouse can work, which is extremely unnecessary when the immigrant is proven legal by their marriage license and their VISA is already processed.

Section IV: Consequences

An issue that could occur is the competition for work positions with native-born Americans. However, immigrants are known to settle in areas with many job openings and options to ensure the best they can for their families. Another issue that could occur with many immigrants being allowed to come to Alabama is the idea of overpopulation in towns and cities. Currently, Alabama is not overpopulated, so we can accommodate and welcome more people, contributing to the overall growth, diversity, and development of the state.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Department of State, with the USCIS responsible for verifying VISAs and regulating the amount of EADs. The Department of State would monitor the quantity of EADs accepted.

Section VI: Payment

This bill does not consist of any payment necessary.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor on its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H083

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Eleanor Couch,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Protecting Workers' Rights by Amending Current Statutes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

NLRB: National Labor Relations Board; a federal agency that aims to protect workers by protecting their rights to organize, fight for better working conditions, and to join a labor union.

NLRA: National Labor Relations Act; a federal law that outlines and guarantees workers' rights, specifically pertaining to their rights to collective bargaining with their employers and their rights to engage in protected activities, such as joining or organizing a labor union.

Labor Union (According to the NLRA): any organization of any kind, or any agency or employee representation committee or plan, in which employees participate and which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work.

Strike: An organized, intentional slow-down or halting of work for the purpose of negotiating wages, working conditions, working hours, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment with employers.

Unionized Workplace: Workplaces in which a labor union negotiates an agreement with a private employer concerning wages, working hours, benefits, and other working conditions.

Right-to-Work (RTW): Alabama Statute (AL Code § 25-7-30 through 25-7-36) stating that no prospective employee may be denied a job based on their status as a member or nonmember of a union, nor may an employer require that an employee join or exit a labor union whilst employed.

Section II: Background

Since the early 1980s, national union membership rate has seen a steep decline, reaching a historic low of 10.1% in 2022. Alabama's union membership falls far below the national average, sitting at only 5.9%. 27 states, including Alabama, have introduced like Right-to-Work legislation since 1947.

The year 2023 saw much action by labor unions, with it being referred to in several publications as "The Year of the Strike." Labor unions and workers' rights are being pushed to the forefront of national attention. Now more than ever, American people are calling for change concerning RTW and other similar legislation. In March of 2023, the state of Michigan became the first to repeal its Right-to-Work statute.

Section III: Proposition

§ 25-7-30 through 25-7-36 will be removed from the Alabama Code. Additionally, municipalities will not be permitted to introduce their own Right-to-Work statutes.

Section IV: Justification

Though its intentions and effects seem positive, Right-to-Work is a significant hindrance to the operation of labor unions in the state of Alabama, severely limiting their ability to collect dues and operate to the best of their ability. Additionally, countless studies have shown that the intended positive effects of RTW legislation do not reflect reality.

Research consistently show a strong correlation between the presence of Right-to-Work statutes and lower wages, increased workplace fatality, and restricted access to healthcare and other benefits. As Alabama is ranked as one of the lowest states for average wages and worker satisfaction and one of the highest in poverty, it is imperative that workers and labor unions have full rights to engage with one another and with employers. By allowing labor unions to operate freely without so many challenges, workers will have a much stronger voice to advocate for improved wages, healthcare, and other such benefits. Further research has shown that union members and unionized workplaces have consistently higher wages, more benefits, and safer workplaces than their non-union counterparts.

Supporters of Right-to-Work claim that it protects individuals from being forced to join a labor union by their employer. In reality, the freedom to choose whether to join a labor union is a right protected at the federal level by the NLRA. The real purpose of RTW is to limit labor unions' ability to operate, therefore restricting the collective bargaining power of workers and making it more difficult for them to advocate for their rights in the workplace.

Section V: Implementation

The enforcement of this bill will be overseen by the Department of Labor. It will require no further funding.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H084

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Colt Hancock,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Energy Grid Resiliency Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1. An act "The Energy Grid Resiliency act"
2. Section I. DEFINITIONS:
 3. Energy Grid: The network for delivering electricity from suppliers to consumers in communities.
 4. Overhead power lines: Power lines ran overhead via wooden poles.
 5. Underground power lines: Power lines ran underground in pipes.
 6. Monthly utility tax: an amount added to a person's bill to help pay for these expenses.
 7. Subdivision: A neighborhood of houses that is about to be built.
 8. Developments: Any commercial space with a building that has yet to be built.
 9. Large Companies: Large private companies that deliver electricity to subscribers, people who pay this company for electricity.
 10. Rural Electrical Cooperatives: Companies that provide electricity to people in rural areas.
 11. Municipal--Owned Electrical entities: Electrical companies that are private but governed by local authorities.
12. Section II. Background:
 13. Within the past 5 years Alabama has suffered 2 hurricanes and since 2000 Alabama has suffered 5 hurricanes which have knocked out power.
 14. One of the most serious of these hurricanes was hurricane Ivan, in 2004. Damaging \$18.82 billion worth of property damage to Alabama alone, the costliest hurricane in Alabama's history. However, no one was killed in Alabama.
 15. The power company Alabama Power reported that during Hurricane Ivan, 489,000 subscribers had lost electrical power, around half of the subscriber base.
 16. This could have been partially averted by having power lines installed underground. As overhead power lines can simply be toppled, underground electrical infrastructure is harder to damage.
17. Section III. Proposal:
 18. The Proposal of this bill is to have power from electrical companies transition from delivering electricity via overhead power lines with wooden poles to underground pipes containing electrical wire.
 19. Starting with changing this in new developments and subdivisions and eventually going back and reverting old power lines to underground pipes with electrically wire.
 20. This provision applies to all electrical companies including large companies, rural electrical cooperatives and municipal owned electrical entities. Any company doing any other form of program to put power lines

underground will have to institute this policy regardless of their whether in addition to the one they already have instituted or not.

21. This bill would mandate that all new subdivisions and developments have to be built with underground power lines.

22. The Cost

23. To start, the congress will provide \$500,000,000 dollars via a loan of .5% interest per year, compounding monthly, to start the construction of these new underground power lines in new subdivisions and developments.

24. All consumers who utilize any power company in the state of Alabama will have to pay an extra \$10 a month tax to help pay for this additional cost.

25. After the 500,000,000 dollars is paid back, this extra money from the monthly utility tax will go in a fund used to convert old overhead power lines to underground in areas where it is feasible to do so.

26. After all electrical lines in the state have been converted to underground and the debt is paid back then the \$10 a month imposed monthly utility tax will cease.

27. The cost to maintain the underground power lines will then fall to the respective companies which own them.

28. Section IV. Justification

29. Justification for this would be that by putting power lines underground, fewer power outages will take place leading to grid reliability during storms which will allow people to maintain contact with the outside world and to have power, meaning that people will not have to operate generators like gas generators, for example, which have the potential to accidentally kill or injure people via carbon monoxide poisoning.

30. Section V. PENALTIES:

31. Penalties for not paying the extra monthly utility tax will be 5% per month added to the amount of tax due to the lost compensation. (An example of this would be someone who does not pay the tax for one month then the \$10 bill will become \$10.50, if the same thing happens the next month. Then if the bill is not paid then the \$10 for the next month is added to the balance so it becomes \$20.50. The bill then becomes \$21.525 when 5% is added on top of that for that month, and so on and so forth)

32. Section VI. EFFECTIVE DATE:

33. This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

34. Section VII. REPEALER CLAUSE:

35. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

36. Section VIII. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:

37. If any portion of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intent of the Legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H085

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Liam Kilfoyle,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Alabama Sports Gaming Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Gross Wagers: Means all cash and promotional wagers received by licensees from bettors as wagers.

Bettor: A person who is 21 years of age or older and physically present in this state when placing a wager.

“Wager” or “Bet”: A sum of money that is risked by a bettor on the unknown outcome of one or more sporting events.

Section II: Background

Alabama is now one of the few remaining states that has yet to legalize sports betting. With states with legalized sports betting making millions of dollars in tax revenue, public works programs and educational programs are benefiting from sports betting. A study done by Kay Ivey in 2020 showed that over 20% of Alabama residents gambled illegally on sports betting, and 2.3 billion dollars is being gambled illegally each year in the state of Alabama. In 2023, 90% of bets placed nationally were placed online.

Section III: Proposition

The state of Alabama will legalize The Alabama Sports Gaming Act for individuals 21 years and older. Online sports betting will take place on only established betting sites such as DraftKings, FanDuel, or Caesars Sportsbook as approved by the Sports Betting Council (SBC).

Section IV: Justification

With the Supreme Court striking down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), each state now has the opportunity to create and enforce its own sports betting laws. 38 states have now legalized sports betting. Alabama is losing out on tens of millions in tax revenue each year. This could help fund our early childhood education initiatives as well as supporting our public K-12 schools.

Section V: Implementation

A flat 10% tax rate would be placed on the sports book. Eighty percent (80%) of the tax collected under this section must be distributed by the council to the state treasurer for deposit into early childhood and K-12 education. Fifteen percent (15%) of the tax collected under this section must be distributed by the council quarterly to the state treasurer for deposit into the general fund, to be remitted quarterly to each local government in this state on a per capita basis, as determined by population based on the last federal census.

Five percent (5%) of the tax collected under this section must be distributed by the council to the state treasurer and allocated to the department of mental health and substance abuse services. The SBC would be responsible for regulating online sports wagering in Alabama. The SBC is charged with overseeing the license

and registration process for online sports wagering operators and vendors, as well as monitoring and enforcing operators' and industry vendors' compliance with the Alabama Sports Gaming Act. A nonrefundable application fee in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), and an initial license fee to process the application and for the first year of licensure, if the application is approved, of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000). Upon approval of the application, the application fee of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) must be applied to the initial license fee of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000). For the second or subsequent year of licensure: licensees receiving one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) or more in gross wagers in the immediately preceding twelve-month period in Alabama, a license fee of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000); and licensees receiving less than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) in gross wagers in the immediately preceding twelve-month period in Alabama, a license fee of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000). The licensing fees would pay for the SBC.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H086

Committee: 4

Chamber: House

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Montgomery Beall,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: ALABAMA NEEDS A LOTTERY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Lottery- a means of raising money by selling numbered tickets and giving prizes to the holders of numbers drawn at random.

Section II: Background

All of the states that surround Alabama have lotteries, including Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee. These lotteries benefit these states in many different ways. Alabama is facing significant challenges in funding essential programs and services, including education, infrastructure, and healthcare. A lottery can fix these issues with its funding. Therefore, the question of if Alabama needs a lottery is relevant today.

Section III: Proposal

The state of Alabama needs a lottery. It will bring in nearly a billion dollars in revenue per year. It would also create jobs and keep a large amount of money in the state of Alabama. This is because current residents spend their money on surrounding states lotteries. This surplus of money will go to the Alabama Department of Education and will fund infrastructure projects. It will lastly provide a fun way for residents to support their state.

Section IV. Justification

An Alabama state lottery will add jobs and funding to our state. The state of Alabama is currently ranked 46th out of 50 in education. This funding will be put into our education system in hopes to raise that ranking for our future generations. Job opportunities will be created related to operating and regulating the lottery. A lottery will significantly increase the state's revenue that will lead to better opportunities for future generations. It will also reduce the outflow of money to neighboring states that do have a lottery system.

Section V: Enforcement

An Alabama government department will be created called the Alabama Lottery Corporation. This corporation will operate and manage the state lottery.

Section VI: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H088

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Anna Kate Bailey,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Healing the Scars Behind Bars

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

SEC.1.

1. A jail is generally a short-term facility used to detain individuals awaiting trial or sentencing, or those who have been sentenced to serve a short period of time
2. Prisons are long-term institutions that house individuals who were convicted of a crime and have been sentenced accordingly
3. The process of decarceration involves reducing the number of people in prisons
4. The term SMI is used as an acronym for serious mental illness.

SEC.2.

This bill will push for prisons that are more humane and generally safe. This will be achieved through three different steps

1. Construction to add onto the state prisons in order to reduce overcrowding. This will occur first of five prisons throughout a ten-year period, and continue onto the remaining fifteen in increments of five.
2. Implementation of more diverse and available therapy sessions within prisons, covering substance abuse (including rehabilitation efforts), depression, anxiety, anger management, and other more severe neurological disorders. This will include an increase in the mandatory mental health checks in addition to the already mandatory screening upon entry to prison. Checkups/screenings will occur every three months.
3. People who are incarcerated will have opportunities to learn job skills through programs teaching technical skills. This will allow them to more easily transition into the workforce upon release and will potentially prevent them from going back to previous behavior that may have resulted in incarceration in the first place.

SEC.3.

Alabama's incarceration rate is 938 per 100,000 residents, making it one of the highest globally. This means that around 43,000 people are in prison or jail at any given point in Alabama. 90,000 people are put into jail yearly, with a consistently increasing incarceration rate. There is also a very prominent racial disparity, with about a 7:20 ratio from white to black citizens, and 56% of Alabama prisons being African American. (Prison Policy Initiative). Also, Black men are around 3 times more likely to be killed in prison than white men. This brings a focus not only just to the injustice of the prison system but also to the flaws of the justice system itself.

1. Overcrowding leads to serious problems in both physical and mental health, with suicide becoming the leading cause of death in prisons, with around 30% of deaths during incarceration. In Alabama specifically, the

death rate in prison is 600 per 100,000, over twice as high as the national average. In the span of two years, there were also over 200 cases of sexual assault, and these are only counting the reported assaults. Rather than spending excess amounts of up to 1 billion dollars on creating new prisons, expanding the current ones can be a more cost-effective solution.

2. As already detailed, suicide accounts for around 30% of deaths in prisons, which is a problem that can be addressed more directly through therapy. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 54% of individuals with significant mental illness are reincarcerated, and 68% of individuals with SMIs and substance abuse problems are reincarcerated. Drug-related offenses have resulted in incarceration rates that have risen 25% from 2017 to 2019, with 15% of Alabama prisons being nonviolent drug offenders. Since 2015 there has been a 70% decrease in the number of people who are incarcerated receiving substance abuse treatment according to the Alabama Department of Corrections through the Center for Law and Justice. Treatment programs inside prisons can prevent these relapses, and help former offenders start fresh and avoid reincarceration.

3. Education within Alabama prisons has been coming into the spotlight more and more in the past few years, and this has resulted in the J.F. Ingram State Technical College, which has been dedicated to helping incarcerated citizens learn technical skills. This can be easily transitioned so that all prisoners have easy access to a free education while serving time. This can result in decarceration due to the long-term impact it will have giving people new opportunities so that they are able to thrive within society.

SEC.4.

This project will be funded through a "Sin Tax" as well as the current budget for the Alabama Department of Corrections, which in the past ended up being around 650 million dollars. The Sin Tax will increase taxation on products containing addictive substances such as alcohol and nicotine by about 10%. This will not only go to combat the addiction problem but also to prison reform, effectively accomplishing two missions.

SEC. 5.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

SEC. 6.

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H089

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Roscoe Bare,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Abolish the Death Penalty

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Specific deterrence - The theory that if one is convicted of a crime, fear of additional punishment prevents that offender from committing future crimes.

General deterrence- The theory that if a defendant is punished for an offense, others who witness the punishment avoid committing the offense to avoid similar punishment.

Capital offense - A crime so serious that capital punishment (involving a sentence of life without parole or the death penalty) is considered appropriate.

Incapacitation - A goal of imprisonment where a criminal is prevented from harming others outside the prison.

Section II: Background

Per capita, Alabama puts more inmates to death than most other states. The death penalty in Alabama is often procedurally flawed and does not achieve its intended goals.

Section III: Proposition

In capital cases, convicts should be sentenced to nothing worse than life without parole.

Section IV: Justification

Although Alabama does not currently have any research about the financial cost of the death penalty, research from other states (i.e. Tennessee, California, Florida, Maryland, and North Carolina) suggests that Alabama taxpayers would pay far less to house inmates for the rest of their lives than if the state continues to administer the death penalty. This money could be used for other types of crime deterrence, like improvements in education, family interventions, investment in community resources, etc. Although it is commonly believed that the death penalty serves as a form of general deterrence, research does not support this belief. In fact, some research had even shown that there is an increase in violent crime in the weeks following an execution. The goal of incapacitating murderers (preventing them from committing more violent crimes) can be achieved through sentences of life without parole rather than death sentences. Research shows that the death penalty also disproportionately targets black people. For example, if a black person kills a white person, he or she is much more likely to be sentenced to death than if a white person kills a black person. With the death penalty, there is also the added risk of executing wrongfully convicted innocent persons, such as Walter McMillan. Finally, there is also the possibility of a failed execution, raising concerns that the death penalty is cruel and unusual.

Section V: Implementation

The responsibility for implementation would fall to the Alabama Department of Corrections. There would be no additional costs, therefore additional funding would not be necessary. For prisoners on death row when the bill is enacted, their sentences would be converted to life without parole.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H090

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Jakeria Clopton, Kaylee Harvill

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Menstrual Equity For Female Prisoners Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

1. "Female Prisoner" refers to any incarcerated individual who identifies as female.
2. "Menstrual Products" includes but is not limited to sanitary pads, tampons, and other hygiene products for managing menstrual hygiene.

Section II: Proposal

1. Female prisoners shall have unlimited and free access to menstrual products during their incarceration.
2. The state shall ensure an adequate supply of high-quality menstrual products available in all female correctional facilities.
3. The menstrual products must be given within two hours of when it was requested.

Section III: Justification

1. Equal access to menstrual products is a basic human right and essential for the health and dignity of female prisoners.
2. Providing unlimited access to menstrual products promotes hygiene, reduces health risks, and supports the overall well-being of female prisoners.

Section IV: Enforcement and Monitoring

1. The Department of Corrections or relevant governing body, in conjunction with the established "Menstrual Equity Monitoring Authority," shall oversee the implementation, enforcement, and adherence to this Act.
2. The Menstrual Equity Monitoring Authority shall consist of individuals with expertise in women's health, human rights, and correctional facility management. Members shall be appointed by the relevant governing body.
3. The Menstrual Equity Monitoring Authority shall conduct regular audits of correctional facilities to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. These audits shall include assessments of the availability, quality, and timely distribution of menstrual products.

Section V: Funding

1. Adequate funding shall be allocated to the Menstrual Equity Monitoring Authority for its operational expenses, including staff salaries, audit procedures, and awareness campaigns.
2. Funding for the Menstrual Equity for Female Prisoners Act shall be a separate allocation within the state budget, ensuring a dedicated financial commitment to the effective implementation of this legislation.

Section VI: Timeframe

This Act shall be fully implemented on January 1st, 2025

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override any conflicting laws upon its signing by the Governor.

Section VIII: Enactment

The bill shall be implemented effective immediately by the Governor's signing or otherwise becoming a law



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H091

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Amari Archie,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Abolish Solitary Confinement in America

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Solitary Confinement: the isolation of a prisoner in a separate cell as a punishment.

Psychological Distress: a state of emotional suffering characterized by depression, unhappiness, and anxiety.

Depression: (major depressive disorder) is a common and serious medical illness that negatively affects how you feel, the way you think and how you act.

Anxiety: a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome.

Paranoia: the unwarranted or delusional belief that one is being persecuted, harassed, or betrayed by others, occurring as part of a mental condition.

Aggression: hostile or violent behavior or attitudes toward another; readiness to attack or confront.

Section II: Purpose

This bill eliminates the chance of inmates in Alabama prisons being placed into solitary confinement because of any occurrence in order to prevent the act of treating humans like caged animals

Section III: Justification

Research shows that solitary confinement has many negative impacts on health, especially in youth. Placement in solitary confinement has been associated with symptoms of increased psychological distress, such as anxiety, depression, paranoia, and aggression. Prisons spend triple the money housing prisoners in solitary confinement than in normal cells. Prisoners are more likely to commit a crime out of prison if they were in solitary confinement before. One study found that prisoners who had been in solitary confinement were nearly twice as likely to reoffend compared to those who had not been in solitary. Many people have committed suicide after solitary confinement as they could not adjust to life out of their confinement. In Alabama's prisons, more than two dozen incarcerated men have killed themselves since 2018 and most of these deaths occurred in segregation cells, where people are housed during solitary confinement. Solitary confinement cells are the size of a king bed, and people are isolated from all human contact. This is cruel, as humans are social animals and rehabilitation necessitates human contact. Some prisoners are put in solitary for the smallest reasons, rather than being stripped of their privileges or confined in their own cells if/when they misbehave. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed - an issue that warrants an alternative. A better alternative to solitary confinement is to put the troubled inmate into a rehab unit that allows inmates to get treatment and human contact but with the loss of recreational time, phone calls, and out of prison

visits. New York, New Jersey , and Nebraska have already abolished solitary confinement, so Alabama could follow the framework of how those states came to pass their respective bills on abolishing solitary confinement.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

The Alabama Department of Corrections will oversee the implementation of this bill. Funding for prisons would be reduced because of the need to pay for this excessive punishment. A year in solitary confinement costs an average of 75,000 dollars, which is three times the average cost of an inmate's incarceration.

Section VI: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: This act shall become effective after its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H092

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Antonio Lemuz,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Rehabilitation First Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Terms

Juvenile detention: is short-term confinement, primarily used after a youth has been arrested, but before a court has determined the youth's innocence or guilt. Pretrial detention is appropriate only when a court believes a youth to be at risk of committing crimes or fleeing during court processing.

Juvenile detention center (juvie): a correctional facility for people under the age of nineteen

Juvenile: is any person who is not yet an adult and under 18 years of age

Child/Minor: An individual under the age of 18 years, or under 21 years of age and before the Juvenile Court for a delinquency matter arising before that individual's 18th birthday.

Rehabilitation: the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

Recidivism: the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend

Physical abuse: intentional bodily injury including but not limited to: hitting with hands or objects. slapping and punching, kicking, etc.

Mental abuse: is the use of threats, verbal insults, and other more subtle tactics to control a person's way of thinking (this abuse is tailored to destroy self-esteem and confidence and undermine a personal sense of reality or competence)

Section 2: Purpose

This bill proposes to eliminate mental and physical abuse of juvenile delinquents by requiring them, by law, to attend a rehabilitation program in order to facilitate their education and career success before being sent to juvie or detention centers. This option is a privilege that can be taken away, contingent upon mental health professionals' evaluations and the type of crime committed by the accused.

Section 3: Justification

The main objective of juvenile detention facilities has been to isolate young people who have committed crimes from the general public. Over the years, the objectives have shifted from simply maintaining public safety to focusing on skill development, habilitation, rehabilitation, addressing treatment needs, and successful reintegration of youth into the community. However, there is little to no evidence of success in Alabama because, according to juvenilelawcenter.org, juveniles have been known to receive very different treatment. For example, many young people who are incarcerated face strip searches, shackles, chemical sprays, and solitary confinement, which is frequently used for 22 to 24 hours a day. Abusive practices lead to

physical harm, psychological distress, emotional trauma, and disruption of normal development and any “rehabilitation.” Numerous studies indicate that incarceration does not lessen delinquent behavior, and according to an updated assessment of the evidence published on aecf.org, when compared to probation and other community alternatives, incarceration actually leads to higher rates of arrest and a higher likelihood that the offender will return to prison. Additionally, at least two-thirds of youth in Alabama’s Department of Youth Services custody are committed for non-felony crimes. Requiring rehabilitation for young adults before they are sent to detention centers would hugely impact juveniles and could even change their lives, thereby achieving a more desired result. According to research, successful rehabilitation programs can lower recidivism rates and provide young offenders with a better chance at a future. Furthermore, it supports the idea that, given the proper chances, young people can transform and make meaningful contributions to society. Using this information we can assure that the highest actions will be taken. This bill recognizes that kids in detention centers are not criminals but our future generations, so what would you rather have your tax dollars go to-an institution of abuse or a potential to better them?

Section 4: Funding and Oversight

The Alabama Department of Corrections will oversee the implementation of this bill. Funding for prisons would be reduced because of the need to pay for this treatment. The national average cost per year to house a juvenile in a detention center is \$588 per day, or \$214,620 per year. The state of Alabama, although significantly cheaper, is still costly, coming in at around \$159 a day, or \$58,035 a year. In contrast, the cost of rehab averages around \$5000 per person.

Section 5: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2026 (or within two years) after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H093

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Everette Kline,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Deregulation of Residential Zoning Act of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Restrictive covenants refer to provisions in a deed limiting the use of the property and prohibiting certain uses.

Easements pertain to the rights to use the property of another for particular purposes.

Boards of zoning appeals are quasi-judicial bodies that can conduct hearings to review zoning laws.

Section 2: Proposal

1. Deregulate the regulations over residential zoning that include location, size, and physical features of the land, and character of the neighborhood.
2. Remove the ability of non-governmental organizations to create zoning restrictions, such as restrictive covenants and easements.
3. Remove boards of zoning appeals.

Section 3: Justification

1. Alabama currently lacks over 90,000 affordable and available housing for low-wage earning families. This is caused by zoning regulations driving up housing prices due to their restrictions causing the underproduction of homes.
2. The housing prices in Alabama are increasing annually by 0.8% this price growth is unsustainable for a large majority of Alabamian families to afford housing.
3. The deregulation of residential zoning creates the opportunity for more mass housing such as apartments and duplexes to be created in areas of need which will in turn lower housing costs creating affordable housing.

Section 4: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 5:

Upon earning a majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and approval of the president or overridden veto, the bill will become effective immediately.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H094

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Kaitlyn Kinney,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: No More Digital Drugs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Pornography- printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings
- Mental Health- a person's condition concerning their psychological and emotional well-being
 - Depression- feelings of severe despondency and dejection
- Third-party Verification- someone who is not one of the main people involved in a business agreement or legal case, but who is involved in it in a minor role for verification
 - Alabama Cyberspace- cyberspace within the Alabama area
- Landing Page- a page that you are brought to before entering a website to prove age identification
- Distributors- anyone who is verified by the Alabama government to distribute pornography within the state of Alabama
- Gross Receipts- the total amounts the organization received from all sources during its annual accounting period, without subtracting any costs or expenses
- Commercial Company- any company that, on the mainstream internet, would be distributing pornography or hurtful sexual material to minors and/or citizens of Alabama.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will require commercial companies of sexual material to have a landing page in Alabama cyberspace that asks for age identification for those 18 and above. The landing page will require any form of governmental identification, commercially verified information, or identification from a third party.

Section III: Justification

Pornography today is being shown to younger generations and this act is negatively affecting the brain with feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, and isolation.

This viewing of pornography and adult videos at this young age rewires the brain to be addicted to porn. This rewire is identical to an addiction to drug use.

Pornography is correlated with the erosion of the prefrontal cortex of the brain. These adult videos have hijacked and altered the function of the brain.

For young men, viewing pornography causes aggressive behavior, especially toward women. The viewing of pornography at a young age, with the not yet fully developed brain, causes an amplified addiction in those viewers.

Section IV: Consequences

The passing of this bill will hopefully help to lower the addiction rate in younger generations which will help boost mental health throughout the generation.

This will also help lower the erosion of the prefrontal cortex which comes with young kids viewing adult videos, as well as eliminate the risk of pornography hijacking and altering the young brain.

Section V: Enforcement

A process of entering a form of identification of age, like a driver's license, birth certificate, or third-party identification, will be required in Alabama cyberspace before entering websites like Pornhub, The Porn Dude, or any source of pornography distribution.

Once someone tries to enter this website, they will be sent over to a verification tab, a landing page, before they enter the website. This landing page will require some form of identification listed above. The creation of this landing page will burden the company, and the government will enforce that on the company through the attorney general. If this is not followed, the attorney general will penalize the company.

The distributors of sexual material will be required to pay a licensing fee to distribute the sexual contact.

Section VI: Payment:

Though this bill does not require payment from the state government, payment will come in from a tax that this bill will assess before, which comes from the pornography website. The tax will derive from things such as sales from websites like memberships, subscriptions, and material that is deemed harmful to minors which is made in the state of Alabama.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H095

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Vestavia Hills

Author(s): Anna-Sophia Le,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Action Against Abuse

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Child Abuse refers to any type of neglect, physical maltreat, sexual exploitation, or emotional harm from a parent or guardian.

Section 2: Proposal

1. All K-12 public schools in the state of Alabama will be provided yearly checks by the Alabama Department of Human Resources in which every student will be privately questioned about their home life.
2. All student information will be kept confidential and safeguards will be put in place to help ensure the protection of the students.

Section 3: Justification

In Alabama, there were 23.3 referrals of child abuse for every 1,000 kids in 2021, the most recent year which data is available. That's far below the national average of 45.2 referrals for every 1,000 kids in the same year. At least one in seven children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year in the United States, which is likely an underestimate considering many cases of child abuse go unreported. Rates of child abuse and neglect are five times higher for children in families of lower socioeconomic households.

Section 4: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

Section 5: Funding

This bill requires no additional funding. The bill will add the job onto the existing description of someone working under the Alabama Department of Human resources.

Section 6: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 7: Enactment

This bill will be enacted after being signed into law and at the start August 1, 2024.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H096

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Emmy Grace Cribbs,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Protection for Learners and Educators from the Dangers of Guns in Education (PLEDGE) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

1. School Shooting: When a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims, time, or day of the week.
2. Victim: Someone who is either killed or wounded during a shooting.
3. Sandy Hook Promise: The American 501 nonprofit created by the parents of the students killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting.
4. Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting: The second-deadliest school shooting in the United States' history, in which 28 people were killed, including 20 first-grade students.
5. Leakage: When a student intentionally or unintentionally reveals clues to feelings, thoughts, fantasies, attitudes, or intentions that may signal an impending violent act, whether through subtle threats, boasts, implications, predictions, ultimatums, etc., and can be found in a variety of mediums, from essays to songs to doodles to videos.
6. Extreme Risk Laws: Also known as Red Flag Laws, Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), these laws allow loved ones and law enforcement to petition a court for an order to temporarily prevent a person in crisis from accessing guns.

Section II: Background

Gun violence in the United States, especially violence in k-12 schools, has been on the rise for the past 10 years.

This past year, there were 346 school shootings in the United States. Among the 227 victims, 70 lives were claimed and numerous others survived with detrimental mental and social harm.

Over the past fifteen years, there have been 42 school shootings in Alabama, including four in 2023 alone. But Alabama, with the fourth highest rate of gun violence in the country, has virtually no legislation in place to protect its students.

Section III: Proposition

This bill will have two parts which shall focus on the prevention of school shootings through education and legal actions.

1. Prevention through education will require teachers, parents, and students in the public school system to be taught the warning signs of school shootings, as outlined by the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation.

They will also be instructed on how best to respond to these potential threats through the FBI's four-pronged approach to threat assessment:

- a. Personality of student: behavior characteristics and traits.
- b. Family dynamics: patterns of behavior, thinking, beliefs, customs, traditions, roles, and values present in a family.
- c. School dynamics: patterns of behavior, thinking, beliefs, customs, traditions, roles, and values present in a school's culture.
- d. Social dynamics: patterns of behavior, thinking, beliefs, customs, traditions, roles, and values present in the larger community where the students live.

From there, every public school will be required to create a plan of action in collaboration with local law enforcement to determine what the next steps will be following threat assessment. This plan should focus on efficiently and effectively neutralizing the threat while ensuring the person who issued the threat or is suspected of issuing the threat (especially if they are a current or former student of that school, as approximately 43.5% of shooters are) is not further alienated. To this end, counseling shall also be provided through the closest state-funded hospital.

2) Prevention through legal action will enact extreme risk laws in the state of Alabama.

This legislation will allow both judicial issuance of orders preventing the person in question from obtaining and possessing a firearm as well as concurrent issuance of search warrants for law enforcement to search and seize the weapons they already possess. This shall be overseen by the courts of Alabama to ensure the individual's rights will be protected throughout this process.

Section IV: Justification

Alabama is hardly known as a progressive state, especially when it comes to gun control. It is imperative, however, that we as a state prioritize the safety of our children. As a result of just the four school shootings in Alabama this year, 3 of our students were wounded and 2 killed, joining the other 38 students who have been victims of these shootings since 2008. This bill hopes to allow Alabama to not only catch up to other states but to become a leader in the nationwide fight to end school shootings once and for all.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Public Safety will oversee the enforcement of this bill, in collaboration with Alabama's justice system and public school systems. Financing of this bill shall be provided through the implementation of an additional 2% tax on sales of guns, firearms, and ammunition. This includes, but is not limited to: rifles, shotguns, pistols, bullets, and jackets. This tax will go into effect on April 20th, 2024.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H097

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Zion Williams, Haylei Mason

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Is Your Mental Health Stable Enough to Own a Gun?

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Mental illness: Disorders that affect your mood, thinking and behavior.

Cognitive thinking: the mental process that humans use to think, read, learn, remember, reason, pay attention, and, ultimately, comprehend information and turn it into knowledge.

psychological evaluation: may consist of a series of formal or structured psychological or neuropsychological tests (as well as clinical interviews designed to identify and describe emotional, behavioral, or learning problems).

Section II: Proposal

Individuals who wish to publicly purchase a firearm must undergo a mental health assessment. .This will determine if the individual is fit to purchase the firearm and use cognitive skills to determine the best choice in any encounter pertaining to the firearm.

Section III: Justification

Mental health background checks before purchasing firearms should be a requirement in Alabama. The state of Alabama has had increased incidents of gun violence because mentally unstable individuals are able to get their hands on lethal weapons due to the lack of a thorough mental health assessment or check. Currently in Alabama, only people who, have been in a mental hospital, have committed a felony, and have been deemed mentally unstable by the court of law, are unable to get their hands on a gun, but what about the ones who have no court history? Because there are no proper mental health assessments or more in-depth background checks, people who should not have access to guns have access to them, and when the wrong person(s) gets their hands on a firearm, fatalities are much more likely to happen. The mass shooting in Dadeville, Alabama is just one example of the many fatalities caused by firearms. Throughout all of Alabama there are people getting murdered over anger/arguments/wrath or just simply because someone was having a bad day and wanted to take their frustrations out on someone. Without the proper examination, a questionnaire about the consumer's mental health history, gun violence will not begin to decline. The passage of this bill will help to prevent people who are mentally unstable from committing acts of gun violence.

Section IV: Consequences

If the proper mental health documentation is not provided from someone desiring to purchase a firearm, they will not be able to purchase it. If someone selling a firearm, sells a firearm to an individual who did not provide the proper documentation, their Federal Firearms License may be revoked.

Section V: Funding and oversight

When the individual has a desire to purchase a firearm they must provide documentation that they have undergone a mental health assessment, provided by their primary care physician, The Alabama Department of Public Health, or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). If the person desiring to buy a gun completes their assessment from the Alabama Department of Public Health, or a FQHC, it is paid for by the government. After an assessment is completed, the mental health professional will issue and sign a standardized document stating that an assessment has been performed and that the person listed in the document has no demonstrated impairment. No person will be allowed to purchase a firearm without this official clearance document.

Section VII: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section IX: Enactment Clause

This law will become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H098

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Campbell Webb,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Require a Permit

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Terms:

Permit - an official document giving someone authorization to do/possess something.

Handheld Gun- a firearm (such as a revolver or pistol) designed to be held and fired with one hand.

Concealed Carry Weapon- the practice of carrying a concealed firearm on one's person in public.

Conceal- Keep from sight; hide or prevent from being known

Law on handheld guns- Anyone 19 years of age or older, who is not prohibited by the state or federal law, may carry a handgun in Alabama without a permit, background check, or safety training.

Open-carry - to carry a firearm in public, where the firearm is completely visible to others.

Preamble:

A bill to require gun permits for all handheld guns, open-carried and concealed carry, in the state of Alabama.

Law enforcement will implement this bill. This bill will also require a mandatory background screening and a firearm safety course. This bill will increase safety measures for Alabama citizens by lowering the gun violence, death, or injury rate among citizens.

Justification:

On average, 1,149 people die every year in Alabama due to gun violence. Alabama has the 5th highest rate of gun deaths in the country. The primary objective of this bill is to limit the number of individuals with access to firearms. It proposes that everyone who legally carries and purchases a weapon should undergo proper education on its use and undergo a thorough background screening. The safety course would entail a mandatory pass-fail test to obtain the permit. Paperwork and fees required for a gun permit are a U.S. Birth certificate and \$50.00 to purchase a license (Like a learner's permit or driver's license). If an individual were to have owned a handgun previously they would be required, by law, to obtain a permit as soon as possible. Failure to obtain a permit for a previously bought/owned weapon will result in a fine gradually increasing starting at \$1,000. The second offense will be \$1,000 and community service. Multiple repeat offenders will be considered breaking the law and will be required to appear in a formal state of law. If the firearm is used without a permit then the said weapon will be confiscated and a fine will be administered, previously stated as starting at \$1,000.

Funding:

The infrastructure required to handle permits and fines already exists within the Sheriff's Department of your local county.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H099

Committee: 3

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Ramsay

Author(s): Brandon Moss, Martez Lutin

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Statewide Multi-Family Dwelling Wi-Fi Accessibility ACT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Purpose

This bill aims to enhance digital accessibility and bridge the digital divide by providing free Wi-Fi access in multi-family dwellings across the state of Alabama.

Section 2: Definitions

Multi-Family Dwelling: Any residential building or complex containing two or more separate living units.

Section 3: Implementation

- (a) The State of Alabama shall allocate funds for the establishment and maintenance of Wi-Fi infrastructure in multi-family dwellings.
- (b) A dedicated department, hereby referred to as the "Digital Inclusion Office," shall be established to oversee the planning, implementation, and maintenance of Wi-Fi services.

Section 4: Eligibility

- (a) All multi-family dwellings, regardless of size or location within the state, shall be eligible for participation in this program.
- (b) The Digital Inclusion Office shall prioritize areas with demonstrated need, taking into consideration factors such as income levels, educational institutions, and community resources.

Section 5: Partnerships and Collaboration

- (a) The Digital Inclusion Office may collaborate with internet service providers, local governments, and community organizations to optimize the effectiveness of Wi-Fi services.
- (b) Public-private partnerships may be explored to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the program.

Section 6: User Guideline

- (a) Wi-Fi access provided under this act shall be subject to fair use policies and guidelines established by the Digital Inclusion Office.
- (b) Educational resources, online training, and digital literacy programs may be integrated to promote the responsible use of Wi-Fi services.

Section 7: Reporting

The Digital Inclusion Office shall submit an annual report to the State Legislature outlining the progress, impact, and challenges faced in the implementation of the Wi-Fi program.

Section 8: Enactment

This bill shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

The Digital Inclusion Office shall commence the implementation of the Wi-Fi program within six months of the bill's enactment.

Section 9: Funding

Funding for this program shall be allocated through the state budget, with consideration for potential federal grants and private contributions.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H101

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Hojeong Yang,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Implementing automated speed cameras in school zones.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Automated Speed Cameras- speed measurement devices that detect speeding and capture photographic or video evidence of vehicles violating a set speed threshold.

Section II: Proposal

Implement automated speed cameras in Alabama school zones.

Section III: Justification

As millions of cars travel on the road in Alabama, speeding has become a big issue, especially in school zones.

Implementing speed cameras in school zones would lead to a lower rate of speeding, a lower rate of high-speed crashes, and a reduction in traffic collision fatalities in school zones.

Section IV: Consequences

Implementing speed cameras would lead to more traffic due to a slower flow of traffic. To combat this issue, the speeding cameras would be turned on only during school hours and turned off during non-school hours.

Section IV: Funding

To fund this bill, we will subsidize \$10 million to speed measuring/speeding camera companies that produce and implement them in school zones.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Motor Vehicles, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and the Alabama Department of Education shall jointly oversee the implementation of this legislation.

Section VI: Severance

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill will take effect on July 1, 2024



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H102

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Michael Allen,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: L.E.Don't: To Control Auxiliary Lighting

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Auxiliary lighting - lighting on cars that is not considered a headlight or tail light
- LED - light-emitting diode - light bulbs that emit seven (7) times more lumens than more common incandescent light bulbs
- LED Light Bar - an example of an auxiliary light; used for off-road, motorcycle, truck, and all-terrain vehicle lighting; typically placed on the roof of the vehicle
- Urban - a federal classification of cities with more than 2,500 inhabitants; approximately 195 cities with this classification in Alabama.

Section II: Proposal

Following the passage of this bill, the state of Alabama would ban the usage of LED auxiliary lighting on vehicles. The punishment for any driver with activated LED lighting would be a moving violation, similar to driving at night with no headlights. This punishment would only apply within the limits of urban cities.

Section III: Justification

LED auxiliary lighting is necessary for rural citizens to drive in sparsely illuminated regions of Alabama. Approximately 75% of Alabama roads are considered rural by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This means that LED auxiliary lights are necessary for most Alabama roads. They are not, however, useful for Alabama's densely populated urban cities. This bill only applies to urban roads because auxiliary lighting becomes dangerous within those regions. Furthermore, LED auxiliary lighting is hazardous within urban settings. LED lightbulbs contain, on average, seven times more lumens than more common incandescent bulbs; this means that LED bulbs are seven times brighter than most vehicle headlights. Similarly, the use of activated auxiliary lighting has the possibility of completely disrupting the environment of these cities. They are especially disruptive to driver and traffic safety as LED lights can easily hinder driver perception.

Section IV: Consequences

The projected outcome of this bill is safer roads for the 59% percent of Alabamians who live in urban cities.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Transportation would oversee the enforcement of this bill.

Section VI: Payment

This bill would not require any payment, but all proceeds from the moving violation fines will go to the Alabama government.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the Governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H103

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Allie Perez,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Introduce a Roadway Safety Card for Alabama Residents

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Undocumented resident: foreign-born people who reside in the U.S. but do not possess citizenship, a valid visa, or other proof of lawful presence
- Roadway safety card: A certification for undocumented residents to prove their roadway competence.
- REAL-ID: a driver's license or identification card that is also a federally accepted form of identification

Section II: Proposal

In the interest of the public safety on Alabama roadways, this bill would, once enacted, allow non-U.S. citizens who reside in Alabama and are unable to present a proof of lawful presence to become legal drivers through the issuance of a roadway safety card. In order to be eligible for a roadway safety card, the applicant must present two proofs of identity showing the applicant's full legal name and date of birth, show Naturalization (ie. a foreign passport, foreign driver's license, a consular identification document issued by the country of citizenship, or an individual taxpayer identification number assignment letter) and two proofs of Alabama residency (ie. a monthly mortgage statement, residential rental/lease agreement, or utility bill).

Additionally, the applicant must pay a \$40 application fee to begin the certification process.

After the required documentation and fees are received, the applicant must undergo and pass a vision exam, driving knowledge test, and road skills exam. If a translator is needed for the completion of these exams, the applicant is permitted to provide one. Translators are required to present a photo identification document.

It is important to note that all the age-based restrictions applied to the Alabama driver's license also apply to the roadway safety card, such that a 14 year old, for example, will not be allowed to apply for a roadway safety card. However, it is equally important to note that the roadway safety card is not a REAL-ID.

Therefore, it may not be used to acquire a commercial driver's license, board an airplane, enter federal buildings, or vote.

Finally, the state of Alabama will ensure that none of the information collected about an individual's identity will be shared with national immigration enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The information collected will only function for the purposes of identification within the state of Alabama and for the state to ensure that all drivers present on Alabama roadways are competent, certified drivers.

Section III: Justification

Not having a process by which undocumented residents of Alabama can become legally certified to operate a motor vehicle on Alabama roadways poses a serious risk for the safety of the public. Currently, there are an estimated 55,833 undocumented people living in the state of Alabama. Ensuring these residents become certified drivers through a series of competency exams makes the roads safer for everyone. Several other states which have passed similar laws have experienced the benefits of providing their undocumented residents a process through which to become legal drivers. Connecticut experienced a 9% decrease in hit-and-runs while California experienced a 7-10% decrease in the same accident category, which translates into an estimated savings of \$3.5 million in out-of-pocket property damage expenses for California drivers. This decrease in hit-and-runs can be attributed to the fact that undocumented residents were less likely to flee after getting into an accident because they had valid driving documentation and they knew that police would not report them to federal immigration authorities if they had this driving documentation. Moreover, Utah and New Mexico experienced 80 and 60 percent drops, respectively, in uninsured driving after passing laws that allow undocumented persons to become legal drivers.

Not only would the driver permit card increase roadway safety, but it would also have positive effects on the economy. Many undocumented workers are limited in their ability to perform everyday tasks due to their limited access to transportation or a fear of driving unlawfully. With the driver permit card, undocumented residents would have a much greater access to a variety of jobs, goods, and services, all of which would ultimately have positive effects on the economy. It is also important to consider that not only would the undocumented drivers benefit from this access, but so would their children. Notably, there are 28,000 U.S. citizen children in Alabama who have non-citizen parents. These children require housing, food, clothing, healthcare, and education, all of which their parents must travel to access. Therefore, making a driver permit card available to undocumented residents would have far reaching social benefits for U.S. citizen children as well.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, Alabama roadways will become safer. Less hit-and-run accidents will occur and the number of people with car insurance will increase. The economy will benefit from the increased mobility of people to work and shop and more jobs will be filled. Perhaps, more jobs will also be created at the DMV to accommodate for an increased influx of applicants.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division will enforce this bill. If this bill is passed, its effective date will be delayed 9 months to give the motor vehicle division and its vendor sufficient time to make the necessary system changes to implement this new credentialing process. This would include training employees, composing the application, updating online systems and services, and designing and manufacturing the driver permit card.

Section VI: Payment

The Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division will receive \$50,000 in initial funding to implement this bill. These funds will pay for the cost to create the necessary changes to DMV's information system and for the DMV's vendor to produce the new credential. After this initial investment, the new credential will generate funds from the \$40 application fee, and these funds will be used to continue paying for this bill.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H104

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): Virginia Haugabook, Emily Kathryn Casey

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Enstating baby boxes at hospitals and fire stations, enabling parents to surrender infants safely and anonymously throughout the state of Alabama.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: definitions

Baby box- The full name, safe haven baby box, a “box” which after an infant is placed in, closes and locks then sets off an alarm, keeping the child warm and safe till the fire department arrives to retrieve the infant.

Infanticide- the crime of killing a child within a year of its birth (in some legal jurisdictions, specifically by the mother).

Section 2: Explanation

In 2022, the “Heartbeat” laws were instituted. This law states women, unless their life is at stake, cannot get an abortion after about six weeks. Because of these laws, unfit women in unstable situations are forced to keep and give birth to their baby. Often, women forced to keep their baby commit infanticide or illegal abortions, which also puts the mothers life in danger. Safe haven baby boxes provide a solution to this. Baby boxes provide a safe and easy way for mothers to give up their baby without committing infanticide or putting their babies life in danger. Safe Haven Baby Boxes mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis and offering a last resort option for women.

Section 3: Action

This bill would lead to the installation of baby boxes in hospitals and fire stations spread throughout the state of baby boxes. The total cost of baby box installation is 16,000\$, this including installation fees and materials. At the beginning of the processes, these boxes would be installed in the busiest and largest fire stations and hospitals so they are accessible to the largest number of people, and from there depending on usage, more could be added.

Section 4: Repealing clause

All laws or Parts of Laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 5: Enactment clause

This bill will go into effect upon passage and approval by its governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H105

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): Frances Fitzpatrick,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Requiring An Unanimous Vote By The Jurors To Impose A Sentence Of Death

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Unanimous-If a group of people are unanimous, they all agree about one particular matter or vote the same way, and if a decision or judgment is unanimous, it is formed or supported by everyone in a group

Juror- a member of a jury

Sentence of Death- a sentence condemning a convicted defendant to death

Section II: Proposition

Relating to sentencing; to amend Section 13A-5-46, Code of Alabama 1975, to require a unanimous vote of a jury to impose a death sentence in a capital murder case; to add Section 13A-5-46.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for resentencing for certain defendants sentenced for capital murder; to repeal Section 13A-5-47.4, Code of Alabama 1975; to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 13A-5-46, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§13A-5-46

(a) Unless both parties, with the consent of the court, waive the right to have the sentence hearing conducted before a jury as provided in Section 13A-5-44(c), it shall be conducted before a jury which shall return a verdict as provided by subsection. If both parties with the consent of the court waive the right to have the hearing conducted before a jury, the trial judge shall proceed to determine sentence without a verdict from a jury. Otherwise, the hearing shall be conducted before a jury as provided in this section.

(b) If the defendant was tried and convicted by a jury, the sentence hearing shall be conducted before that same jury unless it is impossible or impracticable to do so. If it is impossible or impracticable for the trial jury to sit at the sentence hearing, or if the case on appeal is remanded for a new sentence hearing before a jury, a new jury shall be impaneled to sit at the sentence hearing. The selection of that jury shall be according to the laws and rules governing the selection of a jury for the trial of a capital case.

(c) The separation of the jury during the pendency of the sentence hearing, and if the sentence hearing is before the same jury that convicted the defendant, the separation of the jury during the time between the

guilty verdict and the beginning of the sentence hearing, shall be governed by the law and court rules applicable to the separation of the jury during the trial of a capital case.

(d) After hearing the evidence and the arguments of both parties at the sentence hearing, the jury shall be instructed on its function and on the relevant law by the trial judge. The jury shall then retire to deliberate concerning the verdict it is to return.

(e) After deliberation, the jury shall return a verdict as follows:

(1) If the jury determines that no aggravating circumstances as defined in Section 13A-5-49 exist, it shall return a verdict of life imprisonment without parole.

(2) If the jury determines that one or more aggravating circumstances as defined in Section 13A-5-49 exist but do not outweigh the mitigating circumstances, it shall return a verdict of life imprisonment without parole.

(3) If the jury determines that one or more aggravating circumstances as defined in Section 13A-5-49 exist and that they outweigh the mitigating circumstances, if any, it shall return a verdict of death.

(f) A jury verdict of death shall be unanimous. The verdict of the jury shall be in writing and specify the vote.

(g) If the jury is unable to reach a verdict recommending a sentence, or for other manifest necessity, the trial court may declare a mistrial of the sentence hearing. The mistrial shall not affect the conviction. After a mistrial or mistrials another sentence hearing shall be conducted before another jury, selected according to the laws and rules governing the selection of a jury for the trial of a capital case. Provided, Subject to Section 13A-5-44(c), after one or more mistrials both parties, with the consent of the court, may waive the right to have a verdict from a jury, in which event the trial court shall impose a sentence without a verdict from a jury."

Section 2. Section 13A-5-46.1 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding Section 13A-5-57, a defendant sentenced prior to the effective date of this act shall be resentenced pursuant to Section 13A-5-46, in effect on the effective date of this act, upon petition to the sentencing court.

(b) The petition shall be on a form and filed in the manner prescribed by the Administrative Office of Courts. Petitions shall be considered authorized motions for modifications of sentence, assigned a unique identifier by the Administrative Office of Courts and shall not require payment of a filing fee.

(c) The Administrative Office of Courts shall adopt rules as are necessary to implement this section.

Section 3. Section 13A-5-47.1, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the application of sentencing of certain defendant convicted of capital murder, is repealed.

Section 4. Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an existing crime.

Section 5. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Section III: Justification

This is important so that the life of a criminal is not put in the hands of one person. An unanimous vote would ensure that it truly is the best decision. Alabama has a 10-2 vote in order to use execution. This law ensures that everyone is getting a fair and just punishment.

Section IV: Enactment

Goes into effect on 1/1/2025



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H106

Committee: 1

Chamber: House

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Jozalyn Woodall,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to eliminate tenure in Alabama public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

DEFINITIONS:

Tenure- To give someone a permanent post (usually a teacher or professor)

SECTION 1:

This bill is necessary to keep our students in the hands of good teachers, who can effectively teach as well as provide a safe environment for them. Many under qualified or unsafe teachers still hold positions in Alabama public schools. Tenure is acquired in Alabama after three consecutive years of teaching, and then being reemployed for a fourth year. Tenure also locks in big costs, leaving it difficult for schools to explore new (more efficient) methods of teaching. It will make the process of getting fired much less complicated and will encourage teachers to perform their best throughout their teaching career.

SECTION 2:

This bill eliminates Alabama Code Title 16. Education § 16-24C-4

SECTION 3:

The Department of Education will handle the implementation of the law in the course of day-to-day operations.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective October 1, 2024, after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H107

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): An Wilkes Cavanaugh,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Improvement of Maternal Health in Rural Areas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Maternal Health- refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period

Maternal deaths- The annual number of female deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management

Maternal Mortality Rate-the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period.

Healthcare- the organized provision of medical care to individuals or a community

Rural area-open countryside with population densities less than 500 people per square mile and places with fewer than 2,500 people

Obstetrical-relating to childbirth and the processes associated with it.

Section II Proposition:

This bill would increase access to maternal healthcare centers in rural areas of Alabama. The bill requires each town to have its own maternal health care center that provides suitable obstetrical services. The passing of this bill would lower Alabama's maternal mortality rate.

Section III Justification:

Women in rural areas of Alabama are overlooked and their needs are oftentimes disregarded. Many women in these areas must drive long distances to reach obstetricians and hospitals with proper maternal resources. Many women cannot make these long drives and end up giving birth on the side of the road or in their homes. Alabama ranks the third highest in maternal mortality rates, with 37.3 percent of counties identifying as maternal health deserts. These statistics are eye opening, and illustrate the concerning state of maternal care in Alabama. Mothers deserve the same high standards of care that patients in other categories receive.

Section IV Implementation: Federal tax revenues will be invested in the obstetrics wards of hospitals. Alabama legislation will acquire a grant from Rural Obstetrics Network Grants and use those funds to establish maternal healthcare in rural areas, assist pregnant women in prenatal, labor, and postpartum care, and to provide guidance for health centers that do not have obstetric health units. The enforcement of this bill will be overseen by The Alabama Department of Public Health.

Section V Severability:

Any laws or parts of laws in conflict with the bill are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H108

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Olivia Williams,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: No more mass threats

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Threat - a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action on someone in retribution for something done or not done.
- Mass violence - behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill four or more people.
 - Mass Threat - a threat intended to inflict pain, injury, or any other hostile action to a large group.
- Youth Detention Center - A place of temporary confinement while a young person's case is being handled in court.
 - First degree - any intentional murder that is willful and premeditated with malice aforethought
- Class B Felony - a felony that could result in a jail sentence of two years up to a maximum of twenty years. Fines can go up to \$30,000.00.
- Class C Felony - a felony that could result in a jail sentence of a minimum of one year and a day in prison to a maximum sentence of ten years.

Section II: Proposal

Changing the act of making a mass threat in the first degree to a Class B felony instead of a Class C felony.

Section III: Justification

Mass violence has been a reoccurring event in our country, let alone in the state of Alabama. Alabama has seen over 100 mass shootings and other forms of mass violence in the last decade. The enactment of this bill will lower the rate of mass violence due to the consequences of making a mass threat.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, if such person, over the age of eighteen makes a threat of mass violence that is verbally communicated or expressed against a school, college, university, place of worship, business or a mass gathering of twenty-five people will face the consequences of a Class C felony.

If such person, being eighteen years of age or under makes a threat of mass violence that is verbally communicated or expressed through any means against a school, business, college, place of worship, or a mass gathering of twenty-five people shall serve time in a secure detention facility for youth certified by the office of children and family with the state commission of correction.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency will enforce this bill. If this bill is passed, on the day it is signed, this will become a crime.

Section VI: Payment

There is no payment needed for this bill.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H109

Committee: 8

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Kayden Knudsen,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Increased DUI Punishments

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- DUI- the act or crime of driving a vehicle while affected by alcohol or drugs
- Blood Alcohol Level- the percentage of alcohol in a person's bloodstream

Section II: Proposal

The proposal is to increase the sentences and fines for driving under the influence by doubling current punishments. Therefore, upon first conviction, a person violating this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the county or municipal jail for no more than 2 years (used to be 1 year), or by a fine of no less than twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) nor more than four thousand two hundred dollars (\$4,200), or by both a fine and imprisonment. The minimum fines used to be no less than \$600 and no more than \$2100.

Section III: Justification

Enacting this bill will be beneficial in keeping drunk drivers off the road by greatly increasing the risk of driving under the influence. Under the age of 21 years old, anyone driving or in physical control of a vehicle is permitted to contain up to 0.02% by weight of alcohol in their blood; anything more would result in a DUI. A person aged 21 and older is permitted to contain up to 0.08% by weight of alcohol in their blood. Despite these road restrictions, many continue to drive carelessly under the influence.

As a depressant, alcohol diminishes the body's ability to stay alert and maintain proper motor skills/coordination. When driving under the influence, it is significantly harder to react responsibly to other drivers and factors that may result in danger. Because of this lack of perception, around 28 people die a day in America from those driving under the influence. This is a startling statistic that must provoke change. If the current consequences are not significant enough to prevent the action, we must increase them.

Section IV: Consequences

This will cause safer roads and more risk for people who decide to drive under the influence but people convicted of driving under the influence will be upset.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill does not pertain to the enforcement of the law on a day-by-day basis. When someone is brought to court, this law will be enforced by the judges.

Section VI: Payment

No money is needed for this bill.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H110

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Ben Rothman, Josiah Toone

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Too Old to Drive a Car is Too Old to Run a Country

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Dementia: Dementia is not a specific disease but is rather a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities

Section II: Proposal

The age cap for holding a government position will be capped to 65 years old. There will be a maximum age cap when registering to run for a position, with the age cap depending on the length of time the position lasts.

Section III: Justification

The age of people being elected seems to be increasing. 65 years old is the average age for dementia to appear in individuals. In Alabama, at 65 or above, you have a 14.3% chance of getting dementia. From a statistics standpoint, this is nowhere near unlikely. Having these elected officials not fit to serve leaves our state in a worse position than it is now. The current average age of the Governor and Congresspeople is 66.6 years. This means that the majority of the population of these officials have an age 1.5 years above 65.

Section IV: Consequences

It is possible my bill will not be taken well by some Alabama residents. However, if this bill is passed, we shall hope to see the average age of officials drop. The average will hopefully drop from 66.6 to 59.6. This age is a far better age to be an elected official at.

Section V: Enforcement

While registering to run for election, there will be maximum age restrictions. For example, if you are running for a position that will last 6 years, there will be a maximum age of being elected into office as 59 years old. Those currently in office above the age of 65 will finish their term.

Section VI: Payment

There will be no need for payment apart from the computer power to be used to write this bill into law.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H111

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Nellie Feese,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: More Pollution, More Money

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- biodiversity- the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
- water pollution- the contamination of water sources by substances that make the water unusable for drinking, cooking, cleaning, swimming, and other activities.
- ADEM- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- EPA- United States Environmental Protection Agency

Section II: Proposal

The proposal is to increase the punishment for violations of the laws for water pollution in Alabama. This would include increasing the fines by 50% and/or increasing jail time by two additional years.

Section III: Justification

Alabama is the most biodiverse state, but our water is slowly becoming more contaminated. 50 to 60 percent of our streams have failed to meet water quality standards. Leaking underground storage tanks has caused around 90 percent of the soil and water contamination, and of that 90%, only 75 percent of the known releases were cleaned. Our waterways are under threat from sewage, and many smaller communities lack decent sewage infrastructure. Alabama has ranked as the state with the worst tap water in the country, yet millions of Alabamians depend on groundwater as a primary source of drinking water. This pollution is affecting the quality of ecosystems by decreasing the variety of plants and animals. Water pollution may also cause acid rain, exacerbate climate change, and lead to contaminants in drinking water. Many living things can't survive in this toxic environment. To preserve wildlife and maintain a standard of sanitation, we must take action to defeat water pollution.

Some rivers, including the Fowl and the Dog River in Mobile, even have swimming advisories because the pollution can be dangerous. This is mainly due to people and companies' lack of proper sewage systems. If people continue to use improper systems or dump their sewage into the wrong places, more rivers will become unswimmable and polluted. This is a bad look, especially for a state that prides itself on freshwater and its wildlife. We are knowingly decreasing our biodiversity.

I hope that by increasing the fines for water pollution, there might be a deterrent for those looking to dump toxic solutions into our waterways. Further, increasing fines levied for violations will generate additional revenue to support preventative measures, including improvements in sewage infrastructure, educating people on pollution (public service efforts), and overall prevention of pollution.

Section IV: Consequences

People may become angry about paying more money. It is more often larger corporations or companies that will feel the effect of this bill. It is less common for individuals to commit these crimes. The consequences of not enforcing the law would result in damaged sewage lines, polluted drinking water, polluted bodies of water, and low air quality.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the ADEM (The Alabama Department of Environmental Management), although this bill does not pertain to the actual enforcement of current water pollution laws, merely the punishments once a person is caught.

Section VI: Payment

Payments will only increase for those violating the pollution laws that are already set in place.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H112

Committee: 5

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Avery Belew,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Banning Zoos and Aquariums in the State of Alabama

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- zoo: an establishment that maintains a collection of wild animals, typically in a park or gardens, for study, conservation, or display to the public.
 - Endangered species: a species of animal or plant that is seriously at risk of extinction.
- Rehabilitation center: a place or sanctuary for endangered species to be rehabilitated and studied to ultimately be released back into the wild

Section II: Proposal

This bill would ban and close down all zoos and aquariums in the state of Alabama. If wanted, zoos can be transformed into rehabilitation centers for endangered species. Animals will either be moved to habilitation centers or safely released back to their natural habitats

Section III: Justification

This bill should be enacted because zoos contain the unnecessary keeping of animals. Lots of animals do not do well in captivity and survive better in their natural habitats. Capturing animals from their native habitat can disrupt ecosystems and serve no practical purpose, besides sitting behind bars for public entertainment. Zoos cannot replicate all of the natural habitats of their species and can negatively affect the behavior of animals, prohibiting them from having normal survival instincts. Any programs within the zoo that promote the rehabilitation of animals can stay in business and rebrand to just helping endangered species but shut down all public viewing and entertainment of the species. If any schools use zoos for educational purposes, there are other ways to learn about animals that keep them safe and doesn't require face-to-face contact with the animals. Zoos are also very expensive and smell bad.

Section IV: Consequences

Banning zoos might result in less revenue for the company but if there is no zoo, there is no need for the money.

Section V: Enforcement

Department of Finance or the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Section VI: Payment

funding to set up rehabilitation centers and safely return animals to the wild

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H113

Committee: 7

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Ava Leaf, Tori Allen

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: If YOU like chick-fil-a say YAY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

This bill will make the minimum wage in the state of Alabama \$9.50. Alabama currently doesn't have a set minimum wage and default to the national wage of \$7.25 per hour. To put that in perspective, that cannot buy you a chick-fil-a sandwich meal.

Section III: Justification

This bill is important because there are about 70,000 minimum wage workers in Alabama and cannot maintain a livable lifestyle with this wage.

Section IV: Consequences

The economy will be improved by the people who are going to be able to spend more money on experiences to overall improve one's life.

Section V: Enforcement

Employers must follow the state minimum wage, and if they fail to do so the employee has the right to file suit.

Section VI: Payment

No payment

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H114

Committee: 6

Chamber: House

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Katie Clark,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Counseling for Public Safety Employees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Public Safety Employees - a certified law enforcement officer or a firefighter, regardless of rank
- Traumatic event - can include experiences such as natural disasters (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods), acts of violence (such as assault, abuse, terror attacks, and mass shootings), and car crashes or other accidents
- Licensed counseling - means counseling provided by a licensed mental health professional.
- Licensed mental health professional - means a licensed individual who specializes in trauma and crisis, who uses evidence-based treatment options

Section II: Proposal

Notwithstanding any other law, the state of Alabama shall establish a program to provide public safety employees who are exposed to any one of the following events while in the course of duty up to 12 visits of licensed counseling, which may be provided through the employer:

1. Visually OR AUDIBLY witnessing the death or maiming or visually OR AUDIBLY witnessing the immediate aftermath of such a death or maiming of one or more human beings.
2. Responding to or being directly involved in a criminal investigation of an offense involving a dangerous crime against children as defined in section 13-705.
3. Requiring rescue in the line of duty where one's life was endangered.

The program provides licensed counseling for any issue. The licensed counseling is provided on the request of the public safety employee and is in person.

Section III: Justification

This is important because the counseling provided will be at no cost to public safety employees and to start a session it's upon the employee's request.

Section IV: Consequences

The best possible outcome would be for less public safety employees to leave their field of work due to the not so accessible system of counseling for traumatic events.

Section V: Enforcement

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency

Section VI: Payment

This program is paid for by the employer.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H116

Committee: 2

Chamber: House

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Anna Lathram,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Mandating CPR, AED, and First Aid Certifications for all Public School Employees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Terms

CPR - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

First Aid - the first and immediate assistance given to any person with either a minor or serious illness or injury to prevent the condition from worsening, or to promote recovery until medical services arrive

AED: Automated external defibrillator

Section 2: Purpose

A bill to require all Public School Employees in Alabama to be certified in CPR, AED and First Aid in order to be prepared for an emergency situation.

Section 3: Justification

Currently, in Alabama, only physical education and health teachers are required to know CPR and first aid. This bill would allow teachers and other staff members at schools to take fast action and react confidently in situations where lives could be saved. It is unacceptable that the professionals who spend the most time with kids are unable to perform simple, but life saving tasks and are unprepared for when things go wrong. The Department of Public Health reports that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and the number one killer of student-athletes. If CPR is performed immediately, the chance of survival after cardiac arrest triples. By enforcing that all teachers and staff are able to perform CPR as well as have knowledge in First Aid, students would be in an overall safer environment and parents would feel more comfortable knowing that the teachers would be able to react to an emergency situation.

Section 4: Funding and Oversight

Any funding necessary would come from the Continuing Teacher Education (CTE) fund that is already in place.

This training would count towards the already required teacher education.

Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23- February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # H117

Committee:

Chamber: House

Delegation: Birmingham- Indian Springs

Author(s): Ann Charles Sutton

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Daniel Spencer Act: (Prohibition of the Gay and Trans Panic Defense)

Section I: Definitions

The gay panic defense - a legal strategy in which a defendant claims to have committed an act of assault or murder in a state of temporary insanity, due to unwanted same-sex sexual advances from a victim.

The trans panic defense - a legal strategy applied in cases of assault, manslaughter, and murder of a transgender individual with whom the attacker had engaged in or had almost engaged in sexual relations and claimed to have been unaware that the victim was transgender, causing the attacker to go into an alleged state of temporary insanity.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will prohibit the gay panic and trans panic defense from being used in Alabama courts.

Section III: Justification

The gay and trans panic defenses are relied on to support the following theories:

1. Self defense - In the theory of self defense, the defendant argues that they had a rational belief that they were in danger of violence or serious bodily harm based on the knowledge, potential disclosure, or discovery of the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. Provocation - In the theory of provocation, the defendant argues that the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity was a sufficiently provocative act that drove the defendant to kill or assault the victim.
3. Insanity - In the theory of insanity, the defendant argues that the knowledge, potential disclosure, or discovery of the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity caused them to go into temporary insanity that drove them to kill or assault the victim. The gay and trans panic defenses seek to partially or completely excuse crimes such as assault or murder on the grounds that the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim is enough to provoke the violent reaction from the defendant. They characterize the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as a reasonable cause of insanity. Withholding justice from LGBTQ+ victims and sending the message that an LGBTQ+ lives are not equal within a court of law, the gay and trans panic defenses send the message that violence against LGBTQ+ people is acceptable. Therefore, they are very harmful towards members of the LGBTQ+ community and should be prohibited from being practiced.

Section IV: Consequences

The prohibition on the gay and trans panic defenses will help to end the belief that LGBTQ+ lives are worth less than others. In order to reflect the understanding that LGBTQ+ citizens are equal under law, it is imperative that the gay and trans panic defenses be banned.

Section V: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VI: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.

FIRST YEAR BILLS

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

These bills have been selected by the leadership to skip the Committee Process and be debated first in their Chamber. Debate will begin on these bills when Chambers convene on Friday. They are not assigned to a Committee. The patrons should report to Committee 1.

FY004 Improving the Alabama RSAT Program Act	Laine Methvin	Birmingham-Mountain Brook
FY024 Stop Murdering Our Globe	Lee Ginger	Mobile- Bayside
FY047 Recidivism Prevention Bill	Samantha Berg	Montgomery- Catholic

The Regular Calendar will be distributed as soon as possible after Rules Committee and will be available from the Clerk/Secretary in each chamber.

FIRST YEAR COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE 1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JUDICIARY, AND FINANCE & TAXATION

CHAIRPERSON BEBE NEELEY

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 206

COMMITTEE 2 PUBLIC WELFARE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND PRISONS

CHAIRPERSON CARTER HOLLOWAY

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 316

COMMITTEE 3 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

CHAIRPERSON JOSIAH TOONE

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 325

COMMITTEE 4 EDUCATION

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAM TABB

LOCATION: STATE HOUSE ROOM 320



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY001

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- JAG High School

Author(s): Ty'Shayla Taylor,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Social Media Regulation Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Title: Social Media Regulation Act

Section I: Definitions

- "Account holder" means a person who has or opens an account or profile to use a social media company's platform.
- "Minor" means an individual who is under the age of 18 and (a) has not been emancipated as that term is defined as free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberated; or (b) has not been married.
- "Post" means content an account holder makes available on a social media platform for other account holders or users to view.
- "Social media company" means a person or entity that (a) provides a social media platform that has at least 5,000,000 account holders worldwide and (b) is an interactive computer service.
- "Social media platform" means an online forum that a social media company makes available for an account holder to (i) create a profile, (ii) upload posts, (iii) view the posts of other account holders, and (iv) interact with other account holders or users.

Section II: Proposal

A social media company shall verify the age of an existing or new Alabama account holder and, if the current or new account holder is a minor, confirm that a minor has consent to open a new account at the time the Alabama resident opens the account; or for an Alabama account holder who has not provided age verification as required to do so within 14 calendar days of the Alabama account holder's attempt to access the account.

Section III

This bill shall verify that the minor's parent or guardian has to take a picture of their Driver License (DL) or Identification Card (ID)

Section IV:

If an account has not been verified, a social media company shall, until such time the account has been verified:

- Prohibit direct messaging between the account and any other user that is not linked to the account through friending.
- May not show the account in search results for any user that is not linked to the account through friending
- Prohibit the use of targeted or suggested groups, services, products, posts, accounts, or users in the account.

Section V

A social media company shall refrain from collecting or using any personal information from the posts, content, messages, text, or usage activities of the account other than information that is necessary to comply with and to verify compliance with state or federal law, which information includes a parent or guardian's name, a birth date, and any other information required to be submitted.

Section VI

A social media company shall provide a parent or guardian who has given parental consent for an Alabama minor account holder with a password or other means for the parent or guardian to access the account, which shall allow the parent or guardian to view:

1. All posts the minor account holder makes under the social media platform account
2. All responses and messages are sent to or by the minor account holder in the social media platform account.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a social media company shall permit a parent or guardian access to an account without time restrictions.

Section VII: Consequence

If an Alabama account holder fails to meet the verification requirements of this section within the required period. In that case, the social media company shall deny access to the account upon the expiration of the period and until all verification requirements are met.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY002

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Dori Small,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An act to end the death penalty

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I. Definitions

- Death penalty = the punishment of execution, administered to someone legally convicted of a capital crime.

Section II. Background:

23 states have abolished the death penalty and 3 states have stopped execution for now because of all the problems. The death penalty has been known to be extremely racist, in fact about 50% of the people executed have been black when only around 15% of Alabama's population is black. Right now 16 out of 18 of the people in federal prisons on death penalty are of color. And it is known that the penalty is not consistently used and is often used for a black person who murdered a white person. The death penalty has also been known to be very expensive and cost around \$120 million more than keeping someone in prison. The death penalty also has no history of deterring anyone from committing any crime because most crimes are done under drug or alcohol use or mental illness. There is also known to be a financial bias on the people executed and that poor people are far more known to be executed then rich people committing the same crime.

Section III. Proposal

- The death penalty is no longer allowed as a form of punishment.

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Section IV. Justification

First, by ending the death penalty we will be preventing innocent people from being killed. Second, we are keeping people from suffering unnecessarily. And third, we are keeping racial bias to a minimum.

Section V. Effective Date

This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature. (You may amend if your bill presents exceptions).

Section VI Repealer Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section VII. Severability Clause

If any portion of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intent of the Legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY003

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Anna Rose Schwarz, Frances Bach

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Abolish the Death Penalty

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms:

Death penalty- The punishment of execution, administered to someone legally convicted of a capital crime.

Lethal Injection- Process of injecting drugs into a death row prisoner to cause rapid death.

Electric chair- Execution method in which prosecuted criminals are executed by electrocution.

Nitrogen Hypoxia- Execution method in which an inmate breathes only nitrogen, causing death.

Death penalty warrant- An official document that says that someone must be killed as a punishment.

Capital Offense- An offense in which a defendant is punished by a sentence of death or life imprisonment without parole.

Section II: Purpose:

This bill will abolish the death penalty. This bill will repeal the legality of Capital sentencing and punishment in Alabama Code Title 13A: Criminal Code, by making all forms of Capital Punishment illegal.

Section III: Justification:

Alabama is the nation's leading state in per capita execution rates with .956 per 100,00 people. However, research shows that Alabama's violent crime rates are 6.0 per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the national average, of 4.0 per 1,000 residents. Therefore, the death penalty does not resolve or alleviate crime. There are also many cases of prisoners who have been sentenced to capital punishment and exonerated due to proof of innocence—specifically, 3,175 exonerations and counting since 1989. In addition, lethal injection, the most common form of execution, is estimated to be one of the most botched execution methods. In 2022, more than a third of executions were mismanaged. The result of this is painful, and drawn-out executions that the prisoner is subjected to. This bill will abolish the Death Penalty, which has proven to be an unbeneficial and unreliable form of punishment.

Section IV: Funding and Enforcement:

It is far more expensive to give out capital punishment than to imprison for life. The legal process regarding capital punishment trials is 10 times more expensive than the average criminal trial. The money being spent for the death penalty trial can rather be spent on the expansion of prisons for those in prison who would have been on death row.

Section V:

Severability Clause: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY004

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Laine Methvin,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Improving the Alabama RSAT Program Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Recidivism: The tendency of a convicted criminal to re-offend
 - Incarcerate: Imprison or confine
 - ADAM II: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring II
- Relapse: To suffer deterioration after a period of improvement
 - RSAT: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

Section II: Background

Nationwide, overcrowding in prisons is an issue. One would think that once a person is released from prison, they are one less arrestee that the correctional system has to deal with. But, there is a recurring cycle attached to the rate of recidivism. Upon leaving prison, many previously illicit drug users relapse. Next, they commit crimes to satisfy their addiction. And finally, they are incarcerated once more after being caught. In

2013, ADAM II provided a report that declared 63% to 83% of those arrested had at least 1/10 of the substances they were testing for in their system upon arrest. And 80% of arrested persons had been arrested at least once prior to their current arrest. Also, fewer than 30% of the criminals who had alcohol or drugs in their system had engaged in any sort of substance treatment program. These statistics hint largely at the fact that drug use is related to the reincarceration of released felons. The recidivism rate for RSAT program participants was approximately 28%, which shows that over one-fourth of the arrestees who were supposedly treated for their issues revisited jail. South Carolina is handling this issue much better than Alabama is. They have a higher state population but have 10,000 fewer people in prison than Alabama does, and their recidivism rate is 21%, as opposed to the 28.7% of relapsed felons in Alabama.

Section III: Proposition

This bill will require the Alabama Department of Mental Health to replace the current Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program that former prisoners of certain specifications undergo once released from jail with the format and curriculum of the South Carolina RSAT program.

Section IV: Justification

Prison overcrowding calls for extra resources and extra tax dollars. Around 21% of Alabamians taxes are poured into the Department of Corrections which continuously receives former inmates. With the horrendous number of approximately 28% of arrestees being arrested more than once, the money is making no real impact. Jails are there to punish, protect, and teach inmates to not repeat their crimes, yet 1 out of every 4 come back to the correctional system. Implementation of this program would make real use of the tax dollars

poured into the Department of Corrections' budget, and in the long term save tax dollars to be used elsewhere. Currently, upkeep and resources such as food and water take a large chunk out of the money given to the prisons. This would be largely decreased if Alabama implemented the ways of the South Carolina RSAT program, thus lowering the number of people coming back to prison and giving these human beings a real second chance.

Section V: Implementation

The Alabama Department of Mental Health will oversee this legislation and the funding will come from the Alabama Department of Corrections funds.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective on January 1st, 2025 upon passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY005

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Adarsh Vadlakonda,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Life Without the Sun Would be Pretty Dim

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- (a) "Solar power station" refers to a facility designed for the generation of electricity using solar panels or related solar technologies.
- (b) "Community" refers to any municipality, town, or unincorporated area within the state of Alabama.
- (c) "Solar" refers to relating to or determined by the sun
- (d) "Power" refers to the ability to do something or act in a particular way, especially as a faculty or quality

Section II: Proposal

The state shall initiate a comprehensive plan to establish a solar power station in every community in Alabama within the next five years. The proposal shall include detailed site assessments, estimated costs, and a timeline for implementation. The bill proposes that by 2045 solar power will be 7% of all energy produced in Alabama, some 6.034 TWh

Section III: Justification

The adoption of solar power stations aims to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy independence, and stimulate job creation. Investing in renewable energy aligns with the state's commitment to environmental sustainability and long-term economic growth.

Section IV: Consequences

Failure to comply with establishing a solar power station within the specified timeframe may result in financial penalties for the responsible authorities. Communities that actively hinder or resist the implementation may lose eligibility for future state-funded projects.

Section V: Enforcement

The State Energy Commission shall oversee the enforcement of this act. The Commission is authorized to collaborate with local authorities and take legal action if necessary to ensure compliance.

Section VI: Payment

Funding for the solar power stations shall be allocated from the state budget and supplemented by federal grants, private investments, and potential tax revenues. A dedicated fund shall be established for ongoing maintenance and upgrades.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or it otherwise becomes law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY006

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Jackson Aycock,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: It's Not "Cannabanned" It's Cannabis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Cannabis: Cannabis is used to refer to marijuana and its subsidiaries.
- recreational: Recreational means something that is intended for personal use and enjoyment.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will allow for the monitored and limited use of recreational cannabis as well as the creation of a new state agency. The rest of the proposal will be split into multiple segments for further elaboration.

- Section 1: Production:

- Cannabis producers will require a cannabis production permit and will be regularly inspected and watched by a newly created agency known as the Alabama Cannabis Regulation Agency (ACRA). Cannabis will not be mixed with potentially harmful substances

- Section 2: Sale:

- Once the cannabis is produced and processed it will be ready for sale. To be able to sell cannabis the owner of the store and its employees must have a cannabis sale permit. The store will be under regular inspection by ACRA. A store must have its cannabis sale permit in open view for customers.

- Section 3: Purchase:

- When trying to acquire cannabis one must provide identification proving you are of the age of 23 or more. If someone attempts to acquire cannabis from an establishment without a cannabis sale permit they will be charged with illegal acquisition.

Section III: Justification

Many people in Alabama die trying to acquire cannabis. Many also die from using cannabis contaminated with much more dangerous things. We can't stop people from trying to get cannabis but we can provide a safe method.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill will hopefully result in the legalization of recreational cannabis, the creation of the ACRA, and at least a 50% reduction in cannabis-related deaths.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be regulated by ACRA and will make sure production and sales are kept in check.

Section VI: Payment

ACRA will be enacted as a state agency and as such it will be allocated its own funds. This like other state agency funding will come from taxes.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY007

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Dax Castleberry,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Raise the Wage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Minimum wage - The minimum amount of pay required of an employer to give employees an hourly wage.
- Hourly wage - The amount of money paid to an employee every hour worked.
- Employer - A business, organization, or individual that employs people.
- USD - The national currency of the United States of America
- Revenue - The amount of money a business profits
- Employee Turnover - The action of replacing one employee with another

Section II: Proposal

Due to a higher cost of living the minimum wage just can not cover, once enacted, this bill would set an Alabama minimum wage, the minimum wage would be set at \$10.15. In other words, all employers would have to now pay employees who are making an hourly wage of \$7.25 an hourly wage of \$10.15

Section III: Justification

The current cost of living is growing at an exponential rate, since 2008 -- the year that the federal minimum wage increased to \$7.25 -- the value of USD has been decreased through inflation by roughly 40.43%, or in other terms, \$100 in 2008 is equal to about \$140.43 today. Due to this, it is time to set an official state minimum wage higher than the federal, which is \$10.15.

Section IV: Consequences

We should expect an increased employment rate, more money into the hands of consumers which increases economic activity, a better ability for people in poverty to get out of poverty, and tax benefits. Businesses may expect a slight loss in revenue at first, however, they would see benefits in less employee turnover, upped morale, and increased productivity. They would also expect to see a decrease in taxes and an increase in tax returns.

Section V: Enforcement

All employers will be expected to pay their employees accordingly. The Alabama Department of Revenue would handle this law.

Section VI: Payment

All employers will be expected to cover the expenses. It would make money for Alabama, as more money would be spent, resulting in more tax money.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY008

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Caleb Johnston, Riley Godwin

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: CARE Act: College Affordability and Rate Equity Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Tuition-a sum of money charged for teaching or instruction by a school, college, or university

Bachelor's degree- A degree that requires four years of college education to attain

Section II: Background

On average, the cost for a bachelor's degree, four years in the state of Alabama is 9, 596 USD for in-state and over 15 thousand dollars for out-of-state students. Many students end up paying student loans long after they've graduated and pursued their careers. This can financially cripple them very early on, preventing them from taking on larger costs such as buying houses or cars, inhibiting their economic contributions and growth.

To prevent this from continuing to occur, we are proposing a bill that allows the state to implement and execute a maximum on the amount that colleges funded by the government can charge.

Section III: Purpose

The State Legislature, with its conjoined checks and balances, should gain the ability to collaboratively regulate the amount colleges funded by the government and should be able to charge students for tuition. Colleges funded by governmental revenue should not be able to charge greater than 0.002% of their total government funding per in-state student getting a bachelor's degree. Colleges funded by governmental revenue should not be able to charge greater than 0.003% of their total government funding per out-of-state student getting a bachelor's degree.

Section IV: Justification

Colleges would become vastly more accessible for students, allowing them to pursue their careers without being shadowed by student loans. Colleges and universities would continue to increase in revenue after the implementation of the bill, as this would not prevent colleges from generating more revenue. This does not affect the amount of government funding supplied to a college. The bill applies to a percentage of the government funding supplied to the college, allowing for increases as well as decreases to adjust for the current economic climate.

Section V: Implementation

This will be enforced and carried out by the Alabama Commission of Higher Education. A new position will be implemented to ensure the bill is being effectively carried out, creating new job opportunities. The funding for this position will be drawn from existing funds within the Alabama Commission of Higher Education, no additional funding will be required for this law.

Section VI: Conflicting laws

Any laws in conflict or contradiction of this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This bill will go into effect at the end of the 2024 spring semester, as to lower the tuition for the 2024 fall semester.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY009

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Sawyer Carroll,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Implementation of Mastery-Based Math Classes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Mastery-based Learning: A learning system in which students must display mastery of a concept to move on to the next concept.

Section II: Purpose

Once enacted all math classes in public schools would be restructured to follow a mastery-based learning system. Each class would have a certain amount of concepts that a student would be required to get through in the year. After each concept the students will take an assessment to gauge their understanding of that particular concept. If they do well, they move onto the next concept. However, if they struggle on the assessment they will continue focusing on that concept until they master it. Their letter grades will reflect how many of the concepts they managed to master within that class.

Section III: Justification

In a typical math class kids are not given time to master concepts and are forced to move onto the next concept, even if they failed the previous test. Since math builds on itself, without a proper understanding of the previous concepts the entire mathematical foundation will crumble. By switching to a mastery-based approach students will be able to fully understand concepts, and in return have a better understanding of math as a whole. This system will also provide a way for teachers to see what specific students struggle with and assist them further with that topic.

Section IV: Funding And Oversight

In order to put this system into practice an administrator will likely be required to help with course formatting and assessments. Additional teachers may be necessary to assist struggling students with certain topics. An incentive will also be offered to private schools that use this system. According to data from the previous year, Alabama had a 2.2 billion dollar surplus in money for education. Using these funds we will implement and ensure the continuation of this math program. The amount of money necessary for each school will be determined by the Alabama Department of Education.

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY010

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- LAMP

Author(s): Arnav Aggarwal, Ava Cain

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Therapy dogs in Alabama public schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Sections I: Definitions

- Therapy: a variety of treatments that aim to help a person identify and change troubling emotions, thoughts, and behaviors.
- Stress: the body and mind's response to external pressures or challenges, leading to feelings of tension and heightened alertness.
- Mental health: refers to a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being, encompassing the ability to handle stress, relate to others, and make choices, ultimately impacting one's overall quality of life.
- Animal Therapy- using trained animals like dogs or horses to provide emotional support, reduce stress, and improve mental health.

Section II: Proposal

- This bill requires all public high schools in the state of Alabama to have animal therapy. The dogs would come once a week through a non-profit program called the Paws for Wellness dedicated to therapy dogs to be implemented throughout schools. During the day, students have the option to visit a designated room for a stress-relieving experience with therapy dogs. Alternatively, select teachers can have the dogs in their classrooms, enhancing the learning environment with a more enjoyable experience for the day.

Section III: Justification

- Advocating for therapy animals in schools across Alabama is a transformative initiative that can significantly enhance the well-being and mental health of students. Introducing therapy animals into the school environment can create a positive and supportive atmosphere, fostering emotional resilience and reducing stress among students. These animals have proven therapeutic benefits, including lowering anxiety levels, improving mood, and promoting a sense of connection. By implementing programs that involve certified therapy animals and trained handlers in participating schools, we can contribute to a more inclusive and nurturing educational environment. This advocacy aligns with a holistic approach to education, recognizing the interconnectedness of emotional well-being and academic success. It is a step towards building healthier, more compassionate school communities across the nation, where the presence of therapy animals becomes a symbol of care, empathy, and mental health awareness. 46.9 percent of people who are around animals have a positive impact on their mental health. The dogs for the program will be sourced from the nonprofit organization Dogs in the Classroom, in collaboration with Alabama Dog Services, providing the dogs, and the

American Kennel Club which will be training the dogs. The Dogs in the Classroom organization will be responsible for facilitating the presence of these animals in multiple schools.

Section IV: Consequences

- If schools in Alabama fail to abide by rules set by the Alabama Department of Education, consequences may include warnings, technical assistance, and financial penalties. Persistent non-compliance could lead to the loss of funding or accreditation. Corrective action plans, investigations, and legal measures may be implemented to address issues, with potential public disclosure impacting the school's reputation.

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Education.

Section VI: Payment

- Alabama public schools will depend on voluntary contributions and grants provided by Pets in the Classroom and the American Kennel Club.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This law would be a part of the Department of Education.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill will become effective January 9, 2025, upon the governor's approval and upon its enactment.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY011

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Hayden Shook,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Requiring Public Schools to Teach the Orton-Gillingham Approach

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Dyslexia - a learning challenge that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities

Orton-Gillingham Approach (OG) - a highly structured learning process that uses explicit, direct, sequential, systematic, multi-sensory instruction to teach students with dyslexia how to read

Multisensory Learning - teaching new concepts through visual, auditory, and kinesthetic pathways

Alabama Literacy Act - an act passed in 2019 to help improve reading in Alabama public schools, helping to ensure students are reading on grade level by the end of the 3rd grade

DSM - a guide used by healthcare professionals in the US and internationally that contains symptoms, descriptions, and other criteria used for the diagnosis of mental disorders

IDEA - a federal law that protects all US special education services

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) - is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities

IEP- is a plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services.

Section II: Proposal

This bill will order all public schools to have at least one teacher trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach.

Section III: Justification

In Alabama, almost 800,000 students are enrolled in the public school system. Every one in five of these students has a form of dyslexia. Alabama has 1,479 public schools within 138 school districts. Alabama legislation states that each school must provide dyslexia-specific interventions as a part of general education classes. The Orton-Gillingham Approach would be that intervention. With 88% of students graduating from public high school in Alabama, only 70% of dyslexic students graduate high school; only 34% of dyslexic students graduate college, half that of students that do not have the IEP. Orton-Gillingham is scientifically proven to stimulate brain development through its multisensory methodology. Clinical MRIs have found that upon receiving the Orton-Gillingham Approach, people's brains have "rewired" the neurological connections in the language centers of the brain. The approach is prescriptive in the way that it is specifically designed for each student being taught. OG concentrates on the mastery of a skill before moving on to the next, ensuring

that progress is made. The Orton-Gillingham Approach only takes about 60 hours to complete, versus other methods that take multiple years.

Section IV: Consequences

It ensures the unique learning approaches for dyslexic students are accessible from public schools.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Section VI: Payment

The Alabama State Department of Education funds this bill; the funding comes from local, state, and federal tax dollars. This financial assistance will help public schools hire teachers trained in Orton-Gillingham.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY012

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Price Kilgore,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Required 20 minutes of recess for Kindergarten through 5th grade act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

- CDC- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Recess- A regularly scheduled period in the school day for physical activity and play that is monitored by trained staff or volunteers

Section 2: Proposal

- This bill creates a required 20-minute block of recess time in every public school with children from kindergarten through 5th grade.

Section 3: Justification

- In Alabama as of 2019 over 1/3 of children in kindergarten through 5th grade are not granted daily recess. This is contradictory to the CDC recommendation for recess for children due to them indicating it helps to increase student physical activity, improve students' concentration in class, and improve their social and mental development. In a study researching the effects of recess on children 95% of teachers said that recess helped improve their students' social skills and interactions and 81% of teachers noticed a positive change in students' behavior after recess. The lack of recess in Alabama hinders the students' full growth socially and affects their classroom behaviors. In saying this students should have required recess because of the many benefits it has been proven to offer.

Section 4: Consequences

- It helps children develop and grow in ways that cannot be taught in the classroom.

Section 5: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama State Board of Education

Section 6: Payment

- There is no need for extra payment since recess could happen almost anywhere in the school or outside. However, to ensure safety a state-paid teacher must be with them at all times.

Section 7: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section 8: Enactment

- This bill will be enacted as soon as the state passes it.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY013

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Axel Maddox,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Confidentiality About Gender Identity in Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Cisgender - a person who identifies as the gender typically associated with their birth sex.
- Outing - informing others of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity without the consent of the person.
- Transgender - a person who identifies as a gender differing from the one typically associated with their birth sex.

Section II: Background

- Recently the bill called "Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act" was passed. This bill covers and disallows many things having to do with trans minors. One of the major acts is in section 5. This section makes it so that no nurse, counselor, teacher, principal, or other administrative official can withhold a student's gender identity from their parents or guardians. This can cause very dangerous situations for the kids in question and blatantly disregards the purpose of confidentiality.

Section III: Proposition

- This bill will require all talks of a student's gender identity to remain confidential. It will also state that no school official can pressure a student into informing their parent or guardian about their gender identity. This would affect any nurse, counselor, teacher, principal, or other administrative official.

Section IV: Justification

- Transgender kids are some of the most vulnerable to domestic abuse. 73% of transgender adolescents reported physiological abuse, 39% reported physical abuse, and 19% reported sexual abuse. This was reported at a drastically higher rate than their cisgender counterparts. By telling their parents it puts them at risk of losing housing, support from family, and experiencing abuse from family members. 1 in 5 transgender youths need or are at risk of needing homeless shelter assistance. One of the leading reasons for this is an unaccepting home environment. Only 27% of trans youths say their family is very accepting. By outing transgender children before it is safe for them, those kids are being put in a dangerous position that can lead to violence or loss of housing.

Section V: Implementation

- The Alabama Department of Education will oversee this legislation.

Section VI: Severability Clause

- All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed

Section VII: Enactment Clause

- This act is to become effective upon passage and approval by the Governor or it otherwise becomes a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY014

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Jackson Eatman,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The STEM Education Funding Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- STEM- an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Section II: Proposal

- This bill will enact a program for schools in the state of Alabama to apply for a grant to start new or enhance existing STEM programs. Each year a minimum of 4 grants will be awarded to the schools with the best proposals. A proposal will include the need, the solution, and the budget. After the proposal is approved judges will rank the proposals and the top 4 minimum and the next proposals that the funds permit will be awarded the amount of money in the budget of the proposal out of a fund set up for this program specifically.

Any money left over will be used for grant in the next year

Section III: Justification

- In Alabama there is a major need for STEM education in many schools to help prepare students for future careers and pursue interests. This bill will provide the funding for the programs necessary to expand STEM education in Alabama.

Section IV: Consequences

- .25% of the tobacco tax revenue will be diverted into the fund for this program and many schools will get the funds that they need for a project that involves STEM education

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Education and Alabama Department of Revenue.

Section VI: Payment

- The fund will be filled by .25% of the tobacco tax outlined in Code of Alabama Section 40-25-2 & 40-25-2.1.
Any money needed beyond what the fund holds will be taken from the general fund

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective January 1 following its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY015

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Will Long,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prevent the censorship of books by protecting library funding

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Public Library - A library that is accessible by the general public and is funded by federal, state, and local government

Section II: Background

In recent years, across our great state, there has been a wide movement to censor books containing contentious topics deemed “inappropriate” for youths. The ideas deemed “not for youth” include discussion of race, racism, and LGBTQ+. In October, Governor Ivey introduced a new restriction for public libraries to acquire state funding, that being the “(a) ‘physical location (and relocation) of material deemed inappropriate for children or youth’ most of this material follows the same ideology as other bans.

Section III: Proposition

State and local library funding may not be received nor given based on adherence to restrictions regarding lack of possession or location of materials within the library. The location of the book should reflect the publisher’s categorization for the age range of the book. Exceptions include detailed visual depictions of sexual acts;

Section IV: Justification

The censorship of books is one of the greatest crimes a society can commit. To deem information wrong and not for youth, especially adolescents, is completely backward. Especially when that literature details the struggles and voices of those who have already remained silent for far too long. Literature that details the struggles of minorities can help teens feel alienated from their peers and seen by society. In addition, for us to remember and believe in the tragedies of the past and present, we need exposure. Is it reasonable to expect a person at 18 to be introduced to the realities of Racism? Or to expect queer youth to survive isolated until they are an adult? Censoring this material from shelves will only lead to worse outcomes. You can protect these teens by affirming this bill. While preventing all banned books is unlikely, this at least gives the libraries a financial crutch to stand on.

Section V: Implementation

Both the Alabama State Legislature and the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) direct the funding given to public libraries across the state, and these agencies will prevent censorship on a state level. The APLS will oversee and approve the lapse or decrease of local funding. A board of 5 voluntary members elected by the state legislature will meet when an issue is brought up and review the validity of the claims. This Board will be elected once every 2 years with the minimum age being 21.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All Laws and part of laws in conflict with this act or provisions of this act are hereby declared null and void

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY016

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Ava Bindon,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Special Needs Calls for Special Care

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I. Definitions:

- Special needs: particular educational requirements arising from physical or intellectual disability, or behavioral disabilities.
- Children: any person 19 or under (I just looked up and it looks like special needs children get services until they turn 21 on Aug 1
- School Voucher: government funding that allows parents and students to pick their own schools

Section II. Background:

During the day, working parents with special needs children can not leave them home alone during the day, and need a safe place for them to go during their working hours.

Section III Proposal:

Parents of special needs children will receive vouchers so that their child can receive quality child care services Monday through Friday with occasional special events on the weekends. at a reasonable cost. This childcare will be filled with sensory filled activities, arts and crafts, educational games, physical activities (depending on physical ability), and staff that is trained to care for children with special needs.

Section IV Justification:

By providing reasonable care to special needs children, they will be able to socialize and have entertaining activities as opposed to sitting at home.

Section V. Enforcement:

The Alabama Department of Education will regulate this law.

Section VI. Penalties:

If these care centers do not stay open and offer excellent care, they will not receive funds from the government any longer.

Section VII.

Payment: The vouchers will be paid for out of the General Fund of the Education budget.

Section VIII. Severability:

Any laws that are in conflict with this bill will be severed once it is approved by the legislature.

Section IX. Effective date:

To give time for the building to be built, and employees to be trained, this bill will take place the following year, January of 2025.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY017

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Nathaniel Bullock,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Make Alabama's Schools Safe Again

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

I. Definitions

- Certified Teacher - a person who passes a background check and meets all requirements of the state, helps students to acquire knowledge, competence, or virtue, via the practice of teaching.
 - Public School - a school supported by public funds.
- Hand Held Firearm - a small firearm designed to be held in one hand
- School Shooting - an armed attack at an educational institution

II. Background-

Alabama, like many states in the U.S., has experienced the tragic impact of school shootings, where educational institutions have become scenes of violence with devastating consequences for communities. These incidents have fueled debates on how best to address and prevent such tragedies. One contentious proposal has been the idea of arming teachers as a potential solution to enhance school security. Proponents argue that trained and vetted educators carrying firearms could act as a deterrent and provide a rapid response to potential threats, potentially saving lives. However, this proposal is met with opposition, as critics express concerns about the potential risks and unintended consequences of introducing firearms into educational environments. The discussion surrounding arming teachers is part of a broader discourse on finding effective and balanced approaches to school safety, acknowledging the complexity of the issue and the need for comprehensive solutions that address both security concerns and the overall well-being of students and staff.

III. Proposal

All public schools in the state must require that one teacher must be armed with a Hand Held Firearm within every 4 classrooms. To carry a firearm teachers must pass a training course similar to that of Law enforcement.

IV. Justification

The prevalence of school shootings in Alabama has prompted a critical examination of potential solutions to enhance the safety of educational institutions. The alarming frequency of these incidents necessitates a proactive response to protect students and educators alike. Advocates for arming teachers argue that it provides a practical and immediate measure to counteract potential threats. By equipping educators with proper training and firearms, schools can establish an additional layer of defense against potential assailants, potentially reducing response times and saving lives. This perspective sees arming teachers as a pragmatic

approach to address the urgent need for improved security in schools, believing that well-prepared educators can play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of these tragic events.

V. Enforcement

Training, arming, and making layout plans for the arm teacher configurations will be done by the school county and inspected by state law enforcement randomly throughout the year with a minimum of being checked once every 6 months, however law enforcement may check anytime.

VI. Penalties

Any county not following and compiling the guidelines of the bill effectively may lose some state funding.

VII. Payment

The state, using public education funds, will give school counties grants that should be able to fund the programs to see out this important safety change in our schools.

VIII. Severability

Any and all conflicting laws to this will be null and void.

IX. Effective Date

The next school year immediately following the passing of this bill



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY018

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Sam Pate,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Stepping Up Security At Alabama Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions:

Security - the state of being free from danger or threat.

School Resource Officer (SRO) - sworn in law enforcement officers responsible for the safety and crime prevention in schools.

Section II: Proposal:

Step Up Security On School Property - Ever since the year 2000 Alabama has had 13 school shootings. That is 13 too many. This bill would provide funding for a school resource officer for every 200 students at Alabama public schools.

There is money in the education surplus to provide for this bill.

Section III: Justification:

The number one goal of any school is to ensure the safety of its students. This bill will help ensure that would happen because of the extra security provided by school SROs. There is no reason why Alabama should sacrifice on school safety. Right now only schools that can afford school resource officers actually have them. Many school districts in the state can not provide safety for their students and that is unacceptable. Safety is the number priority of schools and we are failing many children in this state.

Section IV: Consequences:

If this bill is passed school students and teachers would feel more comfortable knowing there are trained professionals protecting them. For every 200 students a school has, a school resource officer will be assigned to that school. For example, Spain Park High School has around 1500 students, so the high school would have 7 school resource officers assigned to the school and paid for through Alabama's Education budget. In 2023, there were 726,700 students in Alabama public schools. This bill would provide 3,633 school resource officers for those students.

Section V: Enforcement:

The Alabama Department of Education and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency would work together to implement this law.

Section VI: Payment:

The Alabama Department of Education will provide payment for the SROs. With a budget of over \$8 billion, The Alabama DOE will easily be able to fund this measure.

Section VII: Conflicting Law:

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment:

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY019

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Cameron Grace Hyche,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: School Safety Is Priority

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Background checks-Background check is a process by which a person or company uses to verify that a person is who they claim to be, and provides an opportunity for someone to check a person's criminal record, education, employment history, and other activities that happened in the past in order to confirm their validity.
- Security-Something that secures; protection.

Section II: Proposal

The bill would change background checks on all staff, this bill will create more thorough background checks when a teacher applies and throughout their career. This bill would also use funds to provide stronger and more security throughout the schools for people coming into the schools and going out of the schools.

Section III: Justification

This bill would solve the issue in Alabama of unsafe school environments and create a better school environment. Due to recent searches studies have shown that in school shootings Alabama is ranked 13th in the United States for having 55 school shootings. Due to these statistics, the goals of this bill are not only to create safer school environments but to in every way possible prevent school shootings and other threats to the schools of Alabama from happening.

Section IV: Consequences

By passing this bill, schools will become safer, and more secure. Some of these results from the background could be the prevention of child predators in school and people with a past criminal record that could affect how they work with children.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Board of Education.

Section VI: Payment

To pay for this bill property taxes would be raised from 6.5% to 6.6%.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY020

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Nicole Dasko,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Focus on Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: definitions

- LGBTQ+: An umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people
- Gender Affirm - An individual's affirmed gender is the gender that matches their gender identity.
- Pride: the promotion of self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as a social group. 2. A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired. 3. Consciousness of one's own dignity.
- 14th Amendment: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
- Strict scrutiny: the government must show that its action furthers a compelling government interest and is narrowly tailored to achieve that interest
- Intermediate scrutiny: the government must show that its action furthers an important government interest by using means that are substantially related to that interest
- Rational basis review: the challenger must prove that the government action is not rationally related to a legitimate government interest
- First amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Section II: proposal

Because of the distractions that expressions of sexual preference present to students in schools, this bill once enacted, will prohibit particular curriculum in schools. This includes students being referred to by their preferred pronouns to their gender, and discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity in classroom settings. Schools will no longer be permitted to advertise sexual identity-based curriculum on campus across the state of Alabama.

Section III: Justification

The dangers of promoting and encouraging the Pride movement in the schools of Alabama causes disturbance in students' learning environment. Conversation and classwork that goes around sexual preference and or sexual orientation present a distraction and is a waste of time in classroom spaces.

Governor of the state of Alabama Kay Ivey issued a law that states grades K-5 students may have no conversation about the Pride or LGBTQ movement and may not use bathrooms that are converse to student's real gender. Furthering current rules and regulations that are placed in the state of Alabama by Governor Ivey that apply to banning classroom discussion topics that revolve around LGBTQ+ and sexual education will be extended to also include any discussion about any sexual interactions, preference, or straight Cis. Advancement in gender-assigned safe spaces will override current law where grades K-5 students who identify as transgender may not enter opposite-sex bathrooms and gender-designated spaces to students from grades K-12 to not being able to enter opposite-gender bathrooms and safe spaces to ensure and protect the privacy of other students.

Students are at school to retain information and learn to be able to sustain themselves among other notations upon leaving school. When this bill is passed classroom discussion that revolves around Sexual education out of the context in which the curriculum currently holds to teach students about biological sexual education will be limited and will no longer present distraction in classrooms.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, school environments can be protected from sexual conversation, marketing, and expressions of sexual orientation. Learning environments in the Schools of Alabama will be made free of promotion towards the Pride movement and students will keep to themselves about sexual preference and gender identity. Grades K-12 will prohibit students and administrators from using bathrooms that are not in accord with their gender-designated space and will rid all conversation and learning about sexual orientation and education in the curriculum of the schools of Alabama.

Section V: Enforcement

School boards of Alabama will enforce this bill by notifying all administrators of schools of Alabama about restricting the advertisement of the LGBTQ+ movement in sexual education. Teachers who promote movement with physical advertisement will have to remove it. All departments of education will have oversight over law enforcement.

Section VI: Payment

The board of education of the schools of Alabama will fund the removal of advertisements.

Section VII: conflicting laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws of the governor's signing

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY021

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Angeline Welsh,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to amend Ala. Code § 17-13-8.1 to provide all voters with an opportunity to adopt and use instant runoff voting (IRV) in a primary election

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

DEFINITIONS

Runoff Voting: A runoff occurs when none of the candidates in a general election receive the required percentage of the votes. This percentage varies from state to state. A runoff limits those running to the top two candidates, thereby ensuring one candidate will earn more than 50% of the vote.

SECTION 1:

Ala. Code § 17-13-8.1 provides that only voters who are voting by absentee ballot pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act may use Instant Runoff Voting. This bill will amend the code to provide ALL Alabama voters with the opportunity to adopt and use the Instant Runoff Voting method. Voters in IRV elections rank the candidates in order of preference. Ballots are initially counted to establish the number of votes for each candidate. If a candidate has more than half of the first-choice votes, that candidate wins. If not, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the voters who selected that candidate as their first choice have their votes added to the total of the candidate who was their next choice. That process continues until one candidate has more than half of the votes, and that person is declared the winner. (Wikipedia, accessed 1-16-2024)

SECTION 2:

All voters, whether absentee or in-person, will be given the opportunity to adopt and use IRV in a primary election. If they do not wish to participate, there will be no consequences.

SECTION 3:

The Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division will oversee this bill. Jurisdictions that use IRV to eliminate an entire round of voting (a primary or runoff cycle) will save substantial costs. Jurisdictions that switch to IRV without eliminating a round of voting will likely incur modest costs during the transition. No additional funding will be allocated. (Rankthevote.org, accessed 1-16-2024)

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, upon approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY022

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Paulina Quilacio, Kelley Ramirez

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Cats off the streets

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Cat: A small feline animal

Feral: not domesticated or cultivated

Neuter: The operation of neutering or castration of male cats is called an orchidectomy. The procedure involves general anesthesia, and an incision is made over each side of the scrotal sac so that each testicle can be excised or completely removed. External sutures are not generally required.

Section II: Purpose

This bill will make neutering cats free for residents of Alabama who have an income below 36,000 dollars (net) per year. This bill will effectively reduce the number of cats who harm and are harmed in the state of Alabama. Surgeries will be performed by approved veterinary technician students and qualified volunteers.

Section III: Justification

Communities throughout Alabama face a population crisis of homeless cats, many of them feral and too wild to be placed in homes. They reproduce rapidly and, as their numbers grow, so does the noise, odor, environmental concerns, and health risks. For context, according to the ASPCA, a single female cat has 3-8 kittens twice a year and one unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in seven years. An estimated total of 70,000 cats are born in the U.S. every day. Alabama, in particular, ranks 6th in the nation for reported euthanizations in shelters. This bill will also reduce the number of smaller animals harmed by cats, (decreasing mice, rabbit, chipmunk, bird and squirrel deaths). Allowing qualifying low income households in Alabama to neuter male cats for free will reduce the number of cats, allowing for a better chance at a higher quality of life for all involved. Without testosterone and the ability to reproduce, male cats will experience less aggression, will be less likely to aggressively mark areas, will be less likely to develop cancer, and while they will still hunt, it would be primarily for hunger. Smaller forms of wildlife would be able to flourish and the numbers of cats that are euthanized in the state, estimated to be about 15,000-20,000 as of 2023, would decrease dramatically.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

This bill should not require any government funding. Surgeries will be performed by approved veterinary technician students and qualified volunteers.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section V: Severability Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY023

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Ava Henderson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to Implement Better Recycling: Ensuring that every city and county in the state provides a recycling bin and pickup service for residents

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Alabama State Dept. of Environmental Management: This department ensures the safety of our environment.

Alabama State Dept. of Revenue: This department manages services for taxpayers in Alabama.

Curbside Recycling: Any recyclable materials that are collected at the home and sent to recycling centers.

Recycling: The action or process of converting waste into reusable materials.

Section II: Purpose

The recycling rate in Alabama is under 20 percent, making it one of the lowest recycling states in the country.

In America, the curbside recycling rate is only 34 percent. Therefore, commencing a statewide curbside recycling pickup will not only increase the recycling rate in Alabama but also in the entire country as a whole. Certain cities in Alabama such as: Birmingham, Huntsville, Florence, Opelika, and Orange Beach have curbside pickup systems. However, not all do. This bill will provide the means for the state of Alabama to implement a responsible recycling program.

So far, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Maine, New Jersey, and California have great recycling systems. For example, Colorado's recycling system generates eight billion dollars annually to its economy. Overall, the recycling programs of the states listed above have had an extremely positive impact on the environment and the economy.

Section III: Proposition

Each city in Alabama will hold a City Council meeting to determine what is best for their city. If a city does not already have a curbside recycling system or if they would like to implement any changes to their existing system then they may do so at the necessary required City Council meeting. If the council decides that they need more than one meeting to make a decision then they may have as many meetings as they deem necessary.

Even though the decision is up to the council, that does not mean that they can just decide to not recycle at all. If this happens, then the Alabama State Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama State Department of Revenue will decide what to do.

For example, these two departments may decide that when a home is bought a blue recycling cart will be provided for the homeowner and Residential Recycling Collection will happen twice a week. Also, if a house is

already owned when this bill is put into place then a blue recycling cart will be provided within a one to three month period. Lastly, they may deem fit that citizens/taxpayers should help pay for the service.

Section IV: Justification

Recycling electronics, milk cartons, plastic, paper, cardboard, canned beverages, glass bottles, etc, can greatly help the environment. Not only will this bill help reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills, but it will also prevent pollution and the need to mine and process raw materials. It will also prevent sea turtles and other animals from getting caught in plastic and injuring themselves because of glass and other things. Not only will this reduce manufacturing and the death of animals, but it will also increase the lives of humans as well as teaching ethical environmentalism.

Section V: Funding

Any funding issues will be handled by the Alabama State Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama State Department of Revenue.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill will become effective immediately upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY024

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Lee Ginger,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Stop Murdering Our Globe

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: DEFINITIONS

Climate change: Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns due to human activity.

Smog Check: A test of a vehicle's engine emissions.

License Plate: A plate attached to a vehicle indicating that the vehicle is registered by the state.

Driver's License: A document permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle.

Section II: BACKGROUND

Climate change is leading to an increase in global warming causing the Arctic to sink fast. This is because of smog, otherwise known as ozone pollution. Smog can cause severe droughts, wildfires, and storms. With an increase in such natural disasters, more people will die and suffer as a result. There will also be a rise in conflict, as resources that were once available are depleted.

Section III: PROPOSAL

Alabama will require drivers to pass a smog check to get a driver's license along with renewing their license plate.

Section III: ENFORCEMENTS

Local and State police will enforce this law.

Section IV: JUSTIFICATION

To help defeat this climate crisis, Alabama needs to join the other thirteen states and enforce a smog check; if Alabama joins this statistic, we will be part of the great effort to save the planet.

Section V: PENALTIES

If caught without a tag, drivers will pay a fine.

-1st Offense: Fine \$250, 30 days to pass a smog test

- 2nd Offense: 30 Days to pass smog test, local and state police will remove drivers license

- 3rd Offense: Car is impounded

Section VI: COST

The cost of this bill will be paid by fines of those people who don't follow the law.

Section VII: EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

Section VIII: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:

If any portion of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intent of the Legislature that the other portions shall remain in full force and effect. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY025

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Anna Hughes,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Ban of Plastic Bags Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1. Definitions

- a. Plastic bags- Bags that can not be reused and are made from thin plastic that can damage the environment and harm animals.
- b. Eco-friendly- Something that does not damage or harm its surrounding environment either long term or short term.
- c. Store- A facility where people can buy retail items.

2. Background –

Around 1979 plastic bags were beginning to replace paper bags in the United States. In the 1980s plastic bags became even more popular causing more pollution to occur. Any states have begun to ban the usage of plastic bags including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

3. Proposal –

All plastic bags given out in stores are banned from the state of Alabama, replacing the plastic bags will be paper bags with a fee of seven cents or an eco-friendly reusable bag for one-dollar and ninety-nine cents.

4. Justification –

Many of the economies of the coastal areas are tied to the water and if we do not have a clean water area then that damages our economy and tourism rate. Seeing this if we do not change how we are using bags today it might damage our future economy. Having the ban will lessen the litter and be better for the human health of the citizens of Alabama. This means a reduced carbon footprint, more recycling, and less clogging of storm drains. Having less storm drains clogged can be helpful because of the weather circumstances.

5. Enforcement-

This law will be enforced by Alabama's Office of Attorney General and by citizens themselves who can report this violation to Alabama's Office of Attorney General.

6. Penalties-

- a. 1st offense - A fine of 1,000 dollars.
- b. 2nd offense = The store will be closed for a week and until there are no plastic bags in the store.
- c. 3rd offense = The store will be closed for 3-4 months by the state depending on the severity of the offense.

7. Payment-

The funds received from penalties will go to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

8. Conflicting Laws-

Any and all laws found in conflict with this bill will be null and void upon passage.

9. Effect-

To give stores time to prepare, this bill will take effect this coming October 5, 2024.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY026

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Sloan Stephens,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Safe Schools Funding through Assault Weapon Taxation Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Assault Weapons: Firearms designed to be capable of automatic fire or semiautomatic fire with a detachable magazine and additional specific features such as a pistol grip, folding or telescoping stock, or bayonet mount.
- School Safety Tools: Various equipment and measures aimed at ensuring the security and well-being of students, faculty, and staff within educational institutions. This may include but is not limited to, security cameras, metal detectors, emergency alert systems, secure entryways, crisis intervention training, and mental health resources.

Section II: Proposal

- This bill proposes the imposition of a tax on the sale of Assault Weapons, with the collected funds dedicated exclusively to enhancing school safety measures, including the procurement of safety tools and the implementation of security protocols in educational institutions.

Section III: Justification

- U.S. News' analysis, detailing Alabama's unfortunate tally of 40 school shootings from 1970 to March 2023, serves as a reminder of the vulnerability our educational institutions face. The article reports that Alabama ranks 24th in population but 13th in school shootings nationally. The K-12 Dive website tells us that gun-related injuries surpassed vehicular incidents as the leading cause of youth fatalities in 2020. The year 2022 was the most violent year on record with 274 people killed or physically wounded, which was a staggering 45% increase in casualties from the previous high. The trajectory of incidents is expected to reach 400 when the 2023 year-end statistics are reported.
- Reports from television station WSFA 12 convey the deficiencies within Alabama's school security infrastructure. Some school systems lack fundamental security equipment such as cameras and functional alarms—a critical deficit that poses substantial challenges in fortifying the safety of our educational environments and students.
- By imposing a tax on the sale of Assault Weapons, this bill offers a proactive and sustainable solution. The revenue generated will be channeled exclusively into bolstering school safety measures, ensuring that our educational institutions possess the necessary resources and infrastructure to protect the lives and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.

Section IV: Consequences

- Allocating specific funds derived from the tax on Assault Weapons for school safety measures will ensure that educational institutions can enhance safety without diverting funds from other essential projects, thus promoting an environment conducive to learning while maintaining existing programs.

Section V: Enforcement

- The taxes will be collected by the Alabama Department of Revenue and deployed in programs recommended by a new Joint Committee comprised of members of the State Department of Education and the State Attorney General's office.

Section VI: Payment

- A tax of 18% shall be levied on the purchase of Assault Weapons, before and in addition to standard taxation, effective at the point of sale.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- Any laws or provisions that conflict with the objectives or regulations stipulated within this bill shall be superseded by its enactment.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective on January 1st following its passage and approval by the governor.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY027

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Wesley Portera,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Taxation of Sugary Drinks

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Packaged beverage - a beverage that is in a closed container and is ready to be consumed upon purchase
- Sugar-related diseases - diseases with sugar as a leading cause, such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).
- Milk substitute - any substance that resembles milk and can be used in the same ways as milk. Some plant-based milk substitutes include almond, hazelnut, and oat milk.
- Obese - Defined by the CDC as having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or higher.

Section II: Proposal

- Due to the very high obesity and diabetes percentages in Alabama, this bill will tax the purchase of sugary drinks with more than 7.5 grams of sugar per 12 fluid ounces of beverage. If a drink contains between 7.5 and 30 grams of sugar per 12 fluid ounces of beverage, the drink will be taxed 1 cent per fluid ounce. If a drink contains more than 30 grams of sugar per 12 ounces of beverage, the drink will be taxed 2 cents per fluid ounce. This bill exempts milk (dairy and dairy substitutes) and juices containing 100% juice. This bill only includes non-alcoholic, packaged beverages and will only tax drinks with sugar; therefore, drinks with any other form of sweetener or with no sweetener at all will not be taxed and will remain at the same price. This will prevent sugar-related diseases by reducing the consumption of these dangerous beverages.

Section III: Justification

- Alabama is the third most obese state in the entire country, with an obesity rate of 39.9%. Additionally, Alabama is also the number one most diabetic state in the country, with a diabetes rate of 13.2%. This means that of the 5.04 million residents in Alabama, more than 2 million people are experiencing obesity, and more than 650,000 people have some form of diabetes. These statistics are very concerning, but they can be improved. Though the drinks we consume taste amazing, the amount of sugar in them is worrisome. A 12-ounce can of Coca-Cola, the most consumed soft drink in the world, contains 37 grams of added sugar. The American Heart Association recommends that the average man consume 36 grams of added sugar daily and the average woman consume 25 grams of added sugar a day. This means that just one can of Coca-Cola contains more sugar than a person should consume per day. One of the leading causes of obesity and diabetes is high sugar consumption, and with drinks like Coca-Cola containing large amounts of sugar, sugar-related diseases are a likely result. Taxing drinks with a high sugar content will lower the consumption of drinks like these and lead to a healthier population.

Section IV: Consequences

- The consequences of taxing these drinks will be primarily beneficial. This tax will cause people to opt for the healthier option in a drink, lowering the consumption of sugary beverages, and will ultimately reduce the prevalence of sugar-related diseases in Alabama and lead to a healthier population.

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Revenue. This tax will be a sales tax and will be implemented throughout all of Alabama's jurisdiction.

Section VI: Payment

- All of the money collected from the tax introduced by this bill will be sent to the county in which the tax was collected, which will then be sent to the Department of Health in that county. After the tax is collected, the funds will be sent to causes across the county pertaining to sugar-related diseases.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY028

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Olivia Self,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Change the Minimum Tipping Wage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Tips: a monetary amount paid by a customer in a bar, restaurant, or similar establishment usually in return for or in anticipation of some service

Tipped minimum wage: Wage paid by a company not including the tip gained by a customer, most likely is a number lower than the minimum wage.

Alabama Department of Labor: State agency that assists in career help and oversees laws on compensation and taxes.

Section II: Background

In Alabama, there are no laws on tips or wages, so Alabama follows federal tip credit rules. But Alabama can add laws to the Alabama legislature that oversee tips and wages. The tipped minimum wage of Alabama currently is \$2.13, meaning companies only have to pay their employee \$2.13 an hour if the tips given compensate for the minimum wage

Section III: Proposition

The Alabama Department of Labor will add a minimum tipping wage of \$5.00, this will not require any grants or extra money.

Section IV: Justification

More than 40% of Alabama workers make less than \$15 per hour (this includes tips given to them). Many low-wage workers in Alabama struggle to maintain a healthy lifestyle with the wages they live off of. The tipped minimum wage is one of the main contributors to this struggle, for the company only has to pay \$2.13 per hour if their tips cover minimum wage. Many employees are being exploited through this law since they are being paid their base wage with the tips they earn. This exploitation results in a bad working environment, a lower quality of life, and less money for their labor.

Voting yes for this bill will help bring many of Alabama's low-wage workers to have a more stable and prosperous life, leading to a decrease in poverty and an increase in Alabama's quality of life.

Section V: Implementation

The Department of Labor will oversee this process and make sure all companies are following this law regarding wages.

Section VI: Severability Clause

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VII: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective immediately upon its passage and approval or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY029

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Cruz Mcmurry,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: The Fat Tax act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

AN ACT TO: Reduce the amount of cases of obesity in the United States of America

Section 1:

Proposal A health tax of 1% will be placed on all unhealthy foods in Alabama.

Section 2. Definitions.

Obesity- A condition to where a person has over 30 percent body fat

Fat Tax- Placing a greater percentage of tax on unhealthy/processed food.

Unhealthy food- A food that is unnatural and contains high amount of added sugars, saturated fats, grease, oils, high fructose corn syrup and high amounts sodium.

Store - A vendor that sells food as well as other products.

Section 3.

Purpose. The purpose of a "Fat Tax" is make an incentive for all people to purchase less unhealthy foods and be able to afford more healthy foods. This will overall increase the healthiness of the citizens. Eating healthier foods will not only increase the overall status of a body physically but mentally as well. With the rate of suicide skyrocketing over 37 percent since 2000 this would help improve mental health, help solve eating addictions, kill insecurities, and solve digestive problems. Eating healthy would be advertised more than ever and people would obtain greater physique and be able to perform better mentally. Making "junk food" just as expensive or more expensive would increase the popularity of eating healthy. Most people purchase unhealthy food due to the cheap price and the highly addictive fats sugars and starches. When decreasing tax on healthy food, the healthy food would be more accessible to people creating less mental health problems, create better physique and help people live longer. Making this simple change can help more students (the future leaders) get into great colleges not just athletically but for merit as well. This would increase job opportunities and create a bigger sense of stability within our community. There are zero long term benefits in consuming foods that contain high amounts of fructose corn syrup and grease. All taxes will go to creating outdoor public gyms for the communities.

Section 4:

Proposal: This bill is designed to raise the taxes of unhealthy foods and lower taxes of healthy/ natural foods.

Section 5: Enforcement –

The bill will be regulated by the Health Department.

Section 6: Punishment -

Stores that are caught avoiding the health tax will have the following penalties imposed upon them:

- First offense - \$5,000 fine
- Second offense - \$10,000 fine and temporarily closed for three days
- Third offense - \$100,000 fine and shut down for a month.

Section 7:

Conflicting Laws - any and all laws that are in conflict with this bill will be null and void upon passage.

Section 8: Enactment –

This bill will take effect 90 days after being passed.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY030

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Maggie Parker,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Cancel the Confederacy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- The Alabama Preservation Memorial Act - Passed in 2017, prohibits the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any monument located on public property that has been in place for 40 years or more.
- Confederate Monuments - Monuments displaying the confederate flag or members of the confederacy, most of these monuments were constructed around 1910, at the height of the popularity of the Ku Klux Klan. There was also a notable resurgence around the 1960s, in which the Civil Rights Movement was at its height.

Section II: Proposal

This bill states that cities have the right to relocate, remove, alter, and rename any public monuments displaying the Confederate Flag. Right now, the state government in Alabama has ruled that its cities can not choose to tear down any monuments associated with the Confederacy, despite the personal beliefs, or wishes, of the individual city. This allows people to have more say in their local government.

Section III: Justification

This bill should be passed to give more power to local governments, as opposed to a state government having the power to override locals on little things such as monuments. Due to the freedom we naturally have as American citizens, we should be able to control our cities' monuments, especially ones as serious as Confederate Monuments considering the heavy history and heavy implications they carry. Everyone is aware of the South's reputation in American history, and the passing of this bill would be a step to try and mend the damage already done. However, this bill still leaves local governments with an option, something that Alabama has not previously done with previous bills passed.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill should give individual cities the right to relocate, remove, alter, and rename any Confederate monuments if they choose to do so. This will lead to some monuments being torn down and some being kept up.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama State, Counties, and Cities would enforce it.

Section VI: Payment

This bill will require payment only if a city chooses to relocate, remove, alter, and rename a monument in its current boundaries. This payment will be conducted through city taxes.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY031

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Aaron Adelson,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Ending The Cycle

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Fentanyl: A commonly used ingredient in illegal drugs that is highly potent and responsible for many drug overdose-related deaths
- Opioid Crisis: The growing number of drug-related deaths in the new millennium related to the spread of illegal opioids.
 - Over-the-counter drugs: Directly sold medication from verified health professionals.
 - Class 1 Drugs: Drugs that can be highly abused and have no proven medical benefits.
- Class 2 Drugs: Drugs that have some proven medical benefits but can have a higher risk of addiction and abuse.

Section II: Proposal

This bill legalizes all drugs in all forms except fentanyl and fentanyl products. It allows them all to be sold over the counter with government consent and profits made would assist in funding programs to help with addiction. The money made by the selling of these drugs would go directly to the government and be used to fund programs to help with addiction and help bring people back to sobriety while also decreasing the illegal drug market and possibilities of fentanyl lacing.

Section II: Justification

In the past few decades, the American country has been focusing on tackling the drug crisis in this country. Still, due to the unfavorable results of the war on drugs where all it did was overfill the prisons with low-level offenses and cost taxpayers millions, this prompts the government to take a different approach to the situation by the legalization of all drugs. Another increasingly harmful problem in the United States and Alabama is the risk of fentanyl lacing, which is prevalent in illegal, poor-quality drugs (particularly class 2 drugs). It causes many unexpected drug overdose deaths a year.

With this bill, the risk of having unwanted dangerous ingredients in drugs would be eliminated, prevent accidental overdose, and help reduce the trend of deaths as shown in the 1 million deaths related to drugs in America from 1999-2021. As well as reducing the probability of accidental drug-related death due to the potency of the drugs. Also, with the money gained by the government from being involved in the selling of drugs, the money made to fund drug abuse programs could help stop and treat many addicts, especially with the increase in available money and resources provided by the government. As well as all these reliefs

associated with helping addicts, a state-run drug trade would eliminate the illegal drug trade and the violence and problems that come along with it.

Section IV: Consequences

The expected outcome in the state of Alabama, if this bill came to pass, would be a decrease in drug-related deaths, people with drug addictions, and a decrease in the illegal drug trade and the violence that surrounds it.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by pharmacies throughout the state and monitored by the Department of Health.

Section VI: Payment

The program makes money by running the market instead of illegal operations outside the government.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY032

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Lucas Kang,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Why We Should Ban Marijuana In Alabama

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

In America, many states have different laws on marijuana. Some have made it illegal, some have made it legal and others have made it for medical usage. In Alabama's case, marijuana is for medical usage. I would like to talk about why this is bad and why marijuana should be illegal in Alabama.

Some people wonder why marijuana is for medical usage in some states. People usually think that marijuana is a drug and is bad, but it has some pros to it. According to Harvard Health, medical marijuana has been most known to treat and control pain. In some cases, it is also said that it can help with anxiety, insomnia or even epilepsy. However, you do not need to use medical marijuana to help with these, as there are many other friendlier and healthier ways to treat these. Consult your doctor and they will give you safe and reliable methods of treating these issues instead of having to use medical marijuana. Marijuana could be faster, but it is not worth risking an addiction when you could take the slower route and be much safer.

The cons outweigh the pros in marijuana. The infamous "high" state when an individual is on marijuana can cause serious issues. There are more than 100 substances in marijuana known as "cannabinoids" that causes the state. It does all sorts of things to your body everywhere. It can impair your brain, body movement, vision, thinking skills, and even cause hallucinations. Not only that, it can damage your lungs in a way tobacco does. It can cause bronchitis, which is an inflammation of the airways in your lungs and can be severe harmful. The most dangerous con of marijuana is an addiction. Because it is a drug, people get addicted to it and it becomes a part of their lifestyle. They do not know how to get off of it or stop the addiction, and so they keep doing it.

This leads to more severe symptoms and eventually death.

Marijuana is a double-edged sword, except one side is much duller than the other. What I mean is that the cons are much worse than the pros. Marijuana is a serious problem, and people who do it in states where it is legal, can influence others and can spread the addiction. Although it may only be for medical usage in Alabama, people can still be stealthy and do marijuana without being caught and persuade others to copy them. This can be a serious problem and marijuana needs to be banned in Alabama before the issue gets worse.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY033

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Indira Landau,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Combating Teen E-Cigarette Use

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- E-cigarette: a device containing a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled, used to simulate the experience of smoking tobacco.
- E-cigarette detector: devices used to detect the presence of E-cigarette usage nearby.
- Teen: a minor aged 13-17
- Public School: a school supported by public funds.

Section II: Proposal

- E-cigarette detectors shall be installed in every restroom in public schools and a 10% tax rate shall be placed on all e-cigarette products in the state of Alabama.

Section III: Justification

- 19.4% of Teens in Alabama admitted to using e-cigarettes regularly in a 2023 study on teen e-cigarette use. This is a shocking statistic, especially given the increased risks to underdeveloped brains, cardiovascular disease, and mental illness. School bathrooms are some of the most common locations that students use to smoke e-cigarettes, and installing e-cigarette detectors would enable school faculty to find and punish students who utilized the bathroom for smoking e-cigarettes.
- There is currently no tax on e-cigarettes in Alabama, and implementing one should increase the price of e-cigarettes, discouraging teens from buying them.

Section IV: Funding

- All funding for the installation of e-cigarette detectors in public school restrooms will come from a 10% e-cigarette tax.

Section V: Enforcement

- This act will be enforced by The Alabama Department of Revenue. This act will be enforced throughout the entire state of Alabama.

Section VI: Severability Clause

- All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act or provision of this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

- This act is to become effective upon passage and approval of the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY034

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Amber Wallace, N/a N/a

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Medicine used for what it is meant for

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Medication - any drug or preparation that is used to treat and cure illness.
- Ozempic - a diabetes medicine used with diet and exercise to treat adults whose type 2 diabetes is not satisfactorily controlled.
- Alabama Department of Health - The Alabama Department of Public Health is the primary state health agency of the government of the U.S. state of Alabama.

Section II: Proposal

Due to the high shortages of much-needed medication, this bill will prohibit any doctor from prescribing medication for a condition that is not under the approved list of what it was made and originally used for.

Section III: Justification

There have been many cases of people being prescribed certain medications for reasons other than what the medication has been developed to control. For example, the medication Ozempic, which is approved for the control of type two diabetes has been widely prescribed for weight loss to non-diabetic patients. This has caused a large shortage of Ozempic which has resulted in diabetic patients not being able to receive their medications on a consistent basis. This could lead to serious issues for someone who has Diabetes. People need their medicine on a consistent schedule and this bill will help the situation. Doctors would first recommend a nutritionist and or ways to have more exercise in their daily routine. There are so many more ways to lose weight before using medications that are more important to controlling a disease like diabetes.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill will allow the people who need this medication to have access when needed. This would also prohibit doctors from prescribing it in any other way other than the medication's original purpose. If a doctor does end up prescribing medication for the wrong reasons they will be at risk of losing their license.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill would be Enforced by the State of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Health.

Section VI: Payment

No money will be needed for this act.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY035

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Mary Evelyn Kimbrough,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Protecting Immature Skin From Retinol

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Mature skin - Skin that has started to age, has slowed in collagen production.
- Immature skin - Skin that has not completed puberty, has not fully developed.
- Retinol - A form of vitamin A that has anti-aging effects and can increase collagen production.
- Collagen - A protein produced by the body that plays an essential role in the structure and function of skin and cartilage.
- Skincare product - Any product sold with the intent of improving skin.

Section II: Proposal

- This bill will protect immature skin from the harmful effects of retinol by requiring identification proving that the consumer is of at least sixteen years of age when attempting to purchase a skincare product containing retinol.

Section III: Justification

- With skincare becoming an increasingly popular topic on social media, more and more people are being persuaded to invest in their skin every day. While this is great, education on the topic is the key to understanding how to efficiently do so. Skin becomes considered mature between the ages of fifteen and seventeen. When skin is considered mature, it slows in collagen production and begins to require more intense care. Before skin reaches maturity, however, it generally just needs sunscreen as well as good eating and drinking habits. There is no need for adults and children to be using the same products on their skin, especially considering most of the said products are meant to serve the purpose of anti-aging through retinol, which increases collagen production. When these products are used by children on their skin, the following side effects can occur:
 - Increased chances of skin cancer as retinol makes immature skin which is already vulnerable to UV rays additionally sensitive
 - Violation of skin barriers leads to the death of skin cells, followed by flaking of skin
 - Increases chances of Dermatitis, otherwise known as swelling of the skin
 - Symptoms of Scleroderma which causes fibrosis (thickening) and irritation of the skin
- Skeletal abnormalities resembling Diffuse Idiopathic Hyperostosis Syndrome simplified as the hardening of ligaments

Skin is the largest organ of our body, and it is also one of the most important. By allowing children to harm their skin, we set them up to experience numerous health issues later in life. By cutting out retinol, nearly all of these concerns can be relieved, protecting Alabama's youth and their skin.

Section IV: Consequences

- If someone under the age of sixteen attempts to purchase a skincare product containing retinol without proper identification, the product will not be sold to them. Exceptions will be made if someone under the age of sixteen has a prescription for a product containing retinol. If this is the case, they are eligible to receive said product from their pharmacist with proof of prescription. If an employee is caught selling retinol products to someone under the age of sixteen, they are eligible for one warning before being faced with legal consequences, resulting in a fine of \$100. Employers will keep track of this type of offense via mandatory reports from other employees, reports from other customers, and also by being alerted digitally when someone with a store account makes a prohibited purchase.

Section V: Enforcement

- This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The department will work to educate and inform the public as well as workplaces on this issue and this law, therefore enforcing it. Additionally, the Alabama Department of Public Health will receive money collected from any fines (see section IV) which will then be allotted to any purpose the department sees fit.

Section VI: Payment

- This bill does not require any additional form or source of payment to be enforced.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

- This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VII: Enactment

- This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY036

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Cherokee County Student Y-Club

Author(s): Ava Hammett, Isabella Segura

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: An Act to Legalize Physician-Assisted Suicide

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

DEFINITIONS

Physician-Assisted Suicide - The procedure of a terminally ill patient taking a lethal dose of medication, prescribed by a physician, to end suffering.

Medical/Informed Consent- the process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention. Then the patient (a legal adult) consents to knowing what they are doing.

Terminal Illness- an illness or condition that cannot be cured and is to lead to someone's death.

SECTION 1:

This bill will legalize physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients who wish to pass away peacefully. If a patient meets all the requirements, they will be eligible for physician-assisted suicide.

- Patients must be over the age of 18.
- Patients must be diagnosed with a terminal disease that would cause them to pass away within 1 year.
 - At least two different physicians must confirm the diagnosis.
 - Patients must attend at least one consultation with a psychologist.
- After meeting with a physician and a psychologist, all must agree that the patient is not suffering from a mental issue that would impair their decision.

SECTION 3:

The physicians/psychologists will be allowed to decide if they want to participate in physician-assisted suicide. If they do not wish to participate, there will be no consequences.

SECTION 4:

The Department of Alabama Health and Wellness will oversee this bill. There will be no funding needed.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall become effective January 25, 2025, approval by the Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY037

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Drew Fisher,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Asthma or Asth-oh my!

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

1. Asthma Inhaler: As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires prescription asthma inhaler” means a prescribed medical device that delivers medications used to treat asthma and metered dose inhalers, nebulizers, and dry powder inhalers. Prescription asthma inhaler” does not include inhalers available over-the-counter without a prescription to provide temporary relief from asthma symptoms. The average albuterol inhaler costs \$380 for 100 doses assuming a covered person only needs one dose per day
2. Asthma Health Plan: A health plan established by the State Department of Public Health shall cap the total amount that a covered person is required to pay for a covered prescription asthma inhaler at an amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00), per fifty fifty (50) day supply. Coverage for prescription asthma inhalers shall not be subject to any deductible.
3. Increased Reduction: Nothing in this section prevents a health plan from reducing a covered person’s cost-sharing to an amount less than the amount specified in subsection (b) of this section
4. Covered Person: A person who is covered by the Alabama Asthma Coverage plan enacted if this bill is enacted

Section II: Proposal

This bill would cap the total amount that a covered person is required to pay for a covered prescription asthma inhaler to fifty dollars (\$50.00) per fifty (50) day supply. The remaining cost would be covered via funding through the Public Welfare Trust Fund

Section III: Justification

Alabama is typically a pro life state but if it is truly a prolife state then we can afford We have an estimated 9.13 billion dollars going into health and hospitals we can afford an estimated 300 million for people to quite literally be able breath

Section IV: Consequences

People who need asthma inhalers for survival would be able to afford the necessary prescription in the state of Alabama

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Section VI: Payment

This would be paid for with money from the Public Welfare Trust Fund.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or
it's otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY038

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Gretchen Noon,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Protecting The Unborn and the Mothers of the Unborn

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

1. Minor/underage - a person under 18 years old.
2. Abortion - the termination or ending/bringing to an end to a pregnancy (before the child is born).
3. Incest - when two genetically related people are in a romantic relationship.
4. Rape - when one person forces another person to have sex with them without the person they are forcing giving consent.
5. Pregnancy - the period in which a mother has a child/fetus growing in her womb after the fetus is put there through sex.

Section II: Proposal

This bill makes abortion illegal unless the mother and child's life is in danger or the mother is a raped minor. If the mother and baby are at serious health risk that can be fatal, then abortion is necessary. If the mother is a raped minor, then abortion is necessary unless the mother and her parents want to keep the baby (if there isn't a serious health risk).

Section III: Justification

This bill should be enacted to save the lives of unborn children and to support the mothers (and their families) of the child if they need financial support and/or other support in caring for the child.

This bill also has the purpose of ensuring the safety of the mother and the baby and if they are at high risk of death the baby can be aborted to save the life of the mother. The overall goal is to keep as many mothers and children alive as possible and make sure that the pregnancy is as safe as possible for all. It also will help ensure that all involved in the situation are happy and feel supported emotionally, financially, etc.

It will also give raped minors and their family the option to decide whether or not to abort the baby if they decide to, the reason why being to ensure the underage mother has a happy and normal childhood. This bill will also make it illegal for incest relationships to have a pregnancy if it does, the pregnancy will be terminated.

If this bill is passed, it will introduce programs for adult mothers who don't get abortions and rape underage mothers who don't get abortions to have emotional support, financial support, etc. The programs will support the mother throughout pregnancy and motherhood and they will be available to support all mothers (regardless of their ethnicity, age, if they were raped, incested, molested, LGBTQ+, etc.) if the mother needs help from these programs. Birth control will also be available for all (regardless of their ethnicity, age, if they were raped, incested, molested, LGBTQ+, etc.)

Alabama's abortion policy is very strict and can make it very hard for the mother at times. It can risk the lives of the mother and the baby and can also be hard for the mother's reputation, emotional health, and financial situation. The mission of this bill is to solve all of these issues.

Section IV: Consequences

The outcome is to save the lives of the babies (and the mothers) and create programs to help the mother (and her family) with the pregnancy if necessary with emotional support, financial support, etc., and for mothers to be able to raise the child to have a happy childhood and for raped underage mothers to have a happy childhood.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the Department of Public Health by Maternal and Infant Health Organizations.

Section VI: Payment

The money that pays for the programs described above will be paid for with the money from taxpayers.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY039

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Hope Hadder,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Saving Women

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I - Definitions:

- Embryo - an unborn offspring in the process of development inside the mothers uterus
- Ectopic Pregnancies - when an embryo has implanted somewhere besides the uterus, which cannot produce a successful pregnancy.
 - Fetal loss - when the embryo dies inside the uterus
- Placenta - a tissue that connects the mothers uterus to her umbilical cord, which delivers oxygen to a fetus
- Placenta abruption - when the placenta becomes unattached to the uterine wall prematurely, which cuts off the oxygen to the embryo as well as necessary nutrition and excessive bleeding.
- Imminent life threatening - a standard when two independent doctors decide that the medical issues at stake will imminently affect the life of the mother.

Section II - Proposal:

Upon enactment, this bill will revise current Alabama abortion law 26-23H (The Alabama Human Life Protection Act). Specifically it:

- It will redefine #4 “medical emergency” as follows:

- A condition, as determined by two Alabama licensed physicians, that creates an imminent danger to the health of the pregnant woman. The imminent danger provision has no timeline meaning that an abortion procedure to prevent serious health risks can take place at any time before the condition creates an immediate threat to the health of the mother.

This revision will give women the right to get an abortion if the pregnancy is imminently life threatening for her. In order to prevent abuse of this new legislation, the diagnosis of “imminently life threatening” must be agreed upon by two Alabama licensed medical professionals.

Section III - Justification:

This bill should be enacted because lots of pregnancies end in very serious complications for the mother (around 15%). This bill will help women to feel more comfortable with the idea of being a mother knowing that they will not have to jeopardize their health in order to pursue the dream of motherhood. The enactment of this bill will protect our unborn children and mothers from both passing away if complications do occur during the pregnancy trimester.

Many complications in pregnancies can include an ectopic pregnancy (currently addressed by current law), fetal loss, and placenta abruption. Birth givers cannot control these complications beforehand, and in

many cases, these complications will result in risks of death for the mother. Under these circumstances the embryo cannot develop properly and cannot be given birth to. If two medical professionals both agree that these pregnancy complications will be imminently life threatening for the mother, mothers would have the right to choose whether they would like to continue the pregnancy or not.

This bill clears up the vague language of the current law by giving doctors and pregnant women the right under Alabama law to end pregnancies at any point prior to conditions creating immediate danger.

Section IV - Consequences:

This bill being passed would end uncertainty for doctors and women regarding current Alabama law and also make women feel more comfortable with the idea of having children, knowing that if something does happen, they won't have to risk leaving their loved ones behind.

Section V - Enforcement:

For this bill to be successful, it will have to be enforced by Alabama's Health Department to ensure that two medical professionals have agreed on the matter that an abortion is the only way to save the woman's life.

Section VI - Payment:

This bill requires no additional funding or payment.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws:

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY040

Committee: 3

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Dothan- Northside Methodist

Author(s): Anna Kate Wells,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Removing Tax for Prescription Drugs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Cigarettes: a narrow cylinder containing tobacco

Prescription drugs: A doctor prescribed medication prescribed and intended for one person and regulated by a specific part of the FDA.

Section II: Implementation

This bill will take away all tax on prescription drugs in the state of Alabama. This bill will also raise the tax on cigarettes per pack of 20 from \$0.675 to the U.S. median of \$1.80. This will help people who have to pay for regular prescription drugs.

Section III: Funding

This bill will be funded by the added tax on the sale of cigarettes.

Section IV: This law shall take effect on January 1 of the year following its signing by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.

Section V: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Optional Section VII: The sections of this law are severable. If any part of the bill is deemed unconstitutional that part may be repealed and the other parts remain enforceable.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY041

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Birmingham- Mountain Brook

Author(s): Betsy Pringle,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Banning the Ownership of Assault Weapons Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Semi-Automatic Weapons: A firearm that self-loads and prepares the firearm for subsequent firing, though the trigger must actively be pressed in order to discharge each individual shot

Automatic Weapon: A gun that automatically reloads and allows the shooter to continue firing without having to re-pull the trigger

Bump Stocks: A device that makes a weapon mimic an automatic weapon

Assault Weapons: Any of various automatic and semi-automatic military firearms that utilize an intermediate-power cartridge and are designed for individual use

Section II: Proposition

Due to the fact that Alabama has the fourth highest rate of gun violence in the country, this bill aims to decrease the number and the severity of shootings by banning the ownership of assault weapons in the state of Alabama, and banning the use of any device that will give a firearm the function of an assault weapon, such as bump stocks. This bill will allow the renting of these guns at specific hunting grounds or shooting areas.

However, the hunters must apply for and receive a special permit to rent these guns.

Section III: Justification

While these guns may make certain aspects of hunting easier, they end up taking many human lives. In the last three years, assault weapons have been used in 59% of mass shootings. In the last fourteen years assault weapons have been used in 34% of incidents. Studies have proven that states with stricter gun laws have much less gun violence, and so I believe that this bill will make the citizens of Alabama safer.

Section IV: Consequences

This bill should have mostly good consequences. It will decrease the gun homicide rate in the state of Alabama. A negative consequence that will follow is that people will have to either find a different gun to use or have the inconvenience of needing to get a permit. However, the lives that will be saved will make this worth it.

Section V: Implementation

The bill will be enforced by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. If the bill is passed, citizens will have one month to store their guns at a secure, authorized hunting location. After this time anyone caught in possession of an assault weapon outside of this location will be charged with a first degree misdemeanor, which would result in the citizen either being fined \$2,500 or spending six months in jail. Any money raised from the fines

levied will help pay for enforcing this bill. If additional funding is required, the revenue earned from the Alabama license tax can go towards funding this bill.

Section VII: Severability Clause

Any laws or parts of law in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section VIII: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective immediately upon its passage and approval of the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY042

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Thomas Baker,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: "MAI" Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1) Definitions

AI = computer system that is able to perform tasks usually needing the human mind to complete

Judge = a public official appointed to decide cases in a court

Covid-19 = an infectious disease which led to a pandemic

MAI = (stands for misdemeanor artificial intelligence) artificial intelligence for the use of misdemeanors in court

Section 2) Background:

The courts have been backlogged because, in the United States, there are around 28,200 judges and around 63 million in-state court cases happening. There are not enough judges for this number of cases. The courts are also backlogged because of Covid-19. Covid slowed down the court system. Artificial Intelligence should be introduced into the county and city courtroom to replace judges in misdemeanor cases. Misdemeanors make up around 80% of criminal cases. In Alabama as of 2017, there are around 105,000 cases happening. As of 2022, there are 550 judges. Around 40 % of cases are misdemeanors.

Section 3) Proposal:

Artificial Intelligence should be introduced into the county and city courtrooms to replace judges in misdemeanor cases using MAI. MAI will be an artificial intelligence system created from every misdemeanor case in the last 10 years. After the evidence is put in, the artificial intelligence would then use past cases to understand the size of the penalty to give.

Appeals will happen as normal.

Section 4) Justification:

The purpose of AI in court is to lower the amount of court cases happening. This would reduce the number of cases by around 13 million yearly. In Alabama as of 2017, this would reduce the number of cases by around 40,000 yearly.

Section 5) Enforcement:

The Attorney General of the state would enforce this on the courts.

Section 6) Payment:

To create the artificial intelligence used, the government would have to spend possibly a few million dollars on many Artificial intelligence engineers and their time spent working on it. After the creation of the MAI. Every court would have to spend one to two thousand dollars on a safe computer with the MAI in it.

Section 7) Severability:

Any laws that go against this will be void upon passing of this bill

Section 8) Effective Date:

After the MAI is created, every court will have one year to implement this.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY043

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Heaven Bailey,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Shelter for all

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Mobile Home Parks- an area where people live in mobile homes.

Underground storm shelter- an underground bunker designed to protect people from severe weather.

Tornado- a mobile destructive vortex of violently rotating winds having the appearance of a funnel-shaped cloud and advising beneath a large storm system.

Section II: Purpose

This bill will provide mobile home park owners with immediate access to an underground storm shelter at a maximum of 100 yards away from the mobile home park.

Section III: Justification

On March 3, 2019, in Lee County, AL, a EF4 tornado killed 23 people and 19 of those that died lived in a mobile home. When the first deadly tornado struck in 2023, in Autauga County, right outside Montgomery, AL, they had a 30-minute warning. Regardless of the warning, seven people died and they were all in mobile homes. All but one was thrown at least 1,000 feet from their homes, with the seventh person being thrown at least 500 feet. The chances of dying in a mobile home during a tornado are 15-20 times greater than in a site-built structure. The reason is because mobile homes are not built to the ground, so they can easily be picked up, turned over, thrown into one another, and ripped open. Tornadoes are common in Alabama. There are 838 mobile home parks in Alabama, according to the Alabama Manufactured Home Association. Alabama is ranked number 5 for the most mobile homes in the United States.

In March 2019, when the EF4 tornado killed 19 people living in mobile homes in Lee County, they were given a 12 minute warning before the tornadoes hit. If they had a storm shelter to go to, nineteen lives would have been saved.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight:

This bill will be funded through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. The Tornado Shelters Act (Public Law 108-146), which amends the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, authorizes communities to use community development block grant funds to construct tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, after its passage and approval by the Governor or its
otherwise becoming a law.

Minnesota is the only state with legislation requiring storm shelters or evacuation plans in mobile homes.

$\$7,000 \text{ cost} \times 838 = \$5,866,000$ \$10 million FEMA grant



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY044

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- MA

Author(s): Owen Jones, Adarriah Wright

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Prison Reform

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section 1: Definitions

Misdemeanors- a minor wrongdoing/ less serious than a felony

Rehabilitation- the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness

Disparate- essentially different in kind; not allowing comparison.

Incarcerated- imprison or confine

Regression- a return to a former or less developed state

Alleviate- make(suffering/problem) less severe

Section 2: Proposal

To solve the problem of overcrowded and crime-ridden prisons in Alabama, there will be an increase in the percentage of people let out for parole. Currently, less than 10% of inmates are granted parole, while guidelines recommend that 80% of prisoners should be released. A major reason the prisons are overcrowded is due to the classification of drug possession and shoplifting as violent crimes. To solve the problem of overcrowded prisons, we need to reclassify drug possession and shoplifting as misdemeanors. This bill will reduce the number of current and future prisoners.

Section 3: Purpose

To solve the growing problem of overcrowded prisons in Alabama, we need to cut the problem at the root instead of throwing billions of dollars into an endless black hole of problems. Alabama faces overcrowded prisons due to a lack of parole. Alabama has the lowest rate of parole, even with the most overcrowded prisons. Our state has invested in punishment—extreme sentences and brutal conditions of confinement. We have failed to invest in rehabilitation, drug treatment, re-entry services, and the kinds of crime prevention and community support that would keep all Alabamians safer. This bill will allow inmates to integrate or mix with society after release and help solve the problem of overcrowded prisons in Alabama.

Section 4: Justification

The Parole Board's decisions aren't motivated by concerns for public safety; their decisions are racially disparate and prevent people who could safely and responsibly reenter society from returning to their families. It is time for the parole board to follow the law and its guidelines. It is time for incarcerated Alabamians to come home. This motion to increase financing for parole programs would allow many more

offenders to live their lives outside of prison instead of being locked up for the duration of their sentence. Not only would these parole programs promote inmate reformation and minimize the chance of regression back into prisons, but they would also significantly reduce the number of inmates crowded into prisons. With a reduction in prison overcrowding, Alabama's prison system would experience several benefits and a significant step in resolving the state's prison corruption. This strategy to alleviate jail overcrowding in Alabama would result in both social and economic benefits for the state. For example, in California, In the early 2010s, the state's prison facilities were experiencing overpopulation, and initiatives such as increased parole options helped to alleviate the problem. One step toward resolving the issue was the passage of Proposition 57 in 2016, which increased parole eligibility for convicts in California jails. From 2010 to 2020, the state's efforts resulted in a significant fall in the number of jail inmates. They also cut California's violent crime rate by more than half between 1992 and 2019.

Section 5: Implementation

This bill will be implemented by the Department of Corrections. Reducing the number of prisoners held will significantly reduce costs, but any additional funds needed will be sourced from the Alabama general fund.

Section 6: Conflicting laws

All laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed

Section 7: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective upon the approval of the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY045

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Hannah Grace Zaworski, Madelyn Stringer

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Abolishing Solitary Confinement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Terms

Solitary confinement- the physical isolation of individuals who are confined to their cells for 22 to 24 hours a day, and allowed only minimal meaningful interactions with others. States justify their use of solitary confinement in several different ways. It may be used as disciplinary punishment for convicted prisoners, to protect vulnerable prisoners, or considered to help prison staff to 'manage' certain prisoners. It can be used to lock away prisoners who have – or are perceived to have – mental illnesses.

Incarcerated-puts or keeps someone in a prison or a place used as a prison. Law enforcement officers are authorized by federal, state, and local lawmakers to arrest and confine persons suspected of crimes. The judicial system is authorized to confine persons convicted of crimes. This confinement, whether before or after a criminal conviction, is called incarceration.

ADOC (Alabama Department of Corrections)-Agency responsible for incarceration of convicted felons in the state of Alabama in the United States. They oversee all the prisons in the state of Alabama. This organization will be responsible for enforcing this bill.

Torture-The U.N. Convention Against Torture defines torture as any state-sanctioned act “by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person”.

Section II: Purpose

A bill to enforce the eradication of the use of solitary confinement within Alabama state prisons. This bill will enforce the need for the end of long-term solitary confinement in prisons. Solitary confinement is a torture method and has no place within our prisons. It has been proven to do more harm than good. This bill will describe the horrors caused by an abundance of long-term prison confinement.

Section III: Justification

Solitary confinement has proven to be unjust and unhealthy for the many prisoners who are involved. Today, nearly 20% of prisoners and 18% of jail inmates have spent time in solitary confinement. The threat of confinement is weaponized within prisons and taken advantage of by authority. Some prisoners are at greater risk for forced isolation than others. Black prisoners are more likely to be placed in isolation than White prisoners. Developmentally-delayed inmates and those who identify as homosexual are also more likely to be placed in solitary confinement. One study found prisoners who experienced isolation accounted for over half of the acts of self-harm recorded within prisons. Many have argued, for decades, that solitary confinement is a form of “cruel and unusual punishment,” violating the Eighth Amendment (Excessive bail shall not be required,

nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted). This amendment bans the government's ability to impose harsh or unreasonable punishments on criminals. Alabama prisons have a much higher number of individuals placed in solitary confinement than many other states. For example, in 2020, a 29-year-old man named Antonio Bell died after spending 18 months in solitary confinement. In another case, two authorities were arrested after Jason Kirkland suffocated and died in solitary confinement while they were on duty. The two were charged with criminally negligent homicide for not providing supervision for Kirkland. Many solitary confinement cells are filthy and inhumane. Prisoners staying in solitary confinement rarely get access to clean laundry or showers. A case shows that prisoner Tommy Rutledge died in a solitary confinement cell with a room temperature of 100°. His body temperature at the time of his death was 109°, which shows that the wardens responsible for his care did not provide the medical aid he needed. Prisoners who survive long-term solitary confinement have been proven to have harmful psychological effects, such as hallucinations, insomnia, paranoia, increased risk of suicide, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). It is especially harmful for young people whose brains are still developing. Prison isolation fits the definition of torture. It can include cruel, inhumane, and degrading punishment. Physical torture, restraint, and sensory deprivation (which includes permanent bright lighting, extreme temperatures, and forced insomnia) are all forms of torture used within solitary confinement. Long-term solitary confinement is not a useful form of punishment to be used in prisons, as it is not beneficial to anyone in society.

Section IV: Funding and Enforcement

This bill should not require any additional funding.

The Alabama Department of Corrections will be responsible for enforcing this bill.

If a prison or an individual is found guilty of holding a prisoner in solitary confinement, they will go under a federal investigation to find the person or group of people responsible. The person or persons responsible will be charged with a felony and face potential jail time.

Section V: Severability Clause

All laws or part of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This bill will become effective on January 1, 2025



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY046

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Catholic

Author(s): Samantha Berg,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Enforcing Body-Camera Usage on Correctional Officers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Body-Camera- a small video camera worn on the body, typically used by police officers to record arrests, evidence from crime scenes, and abuses of power.

Abuse of Power- the misuse of a position of power to take advantage of or harm a person

Section II: Purpose

It is not a secret that many prisoners suffer abuses at the hands of correctional officers. These abuses of power are the foundation on which this bill is built. The goal of this bill is to lessen such instances. By mandating correctional officers to wear body-cameras that will be subject to review as incidents become apparent, this bill achieves that goal. If passed, this bill will make both the prisoners and the officers safer, as the presence of security and the promise of punishment will discourage potential incidents.

Section III: Justification

The problems guards and prisoners face in Alabama federal prisons have grown to an unacceptable level of violence and danger. This year, former Alabama Department of Corrections lieutenant Mohammed Sahid Jenkins was sentenced to 87 months in prison for abusing an inmate and lying to cover his crime up. This is not an isolated incident. Capt. Timothy McCorvey was reinstated in his position in Ventress Correctional Facility after striking inmate Brandon Crosby twice while Mr. Crosby was handcuffed and forced to the ground. Later that same day, January 21, 2023, Crosby died from blunt force trauma he suffered at the hands of his abuser. These gross abuses of power rage through our state, threatening the lives and security of inmates and officers alike. That is why this bill must be passed. It is time to end these horrors of the Alabama prison system.

Section IV: Funding and Oversight

The funding for the body-cameras will be found in the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for body-cameras, which provides \$360 million and renews annually. The Alabama Department of Corrections will be responsible for the distribution of an appropriate amount of body-cameras. Each prison must hand out the body-cameras to each correctional officer, and each officer will be held responsible for their camera, turning it in at the end of each shift and ensuring it is recording unobstructed throughout their shift. The chief officer of each individual prison will be tasked with reviewing footage of reported, suspected or alleged incidents of prisoner or guard abuse, as well as reporting any incidents and punishing them as they elect.

Section V: Severability Clause

"All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed."

Section VI: Enactment Clause

This act shall become effective January 1, 2025 after passage and approval.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY047

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Farrah Lane,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Recidivism Prevention Bill

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Recidivism Prevention Bill

Definitions:

Recidivism: "The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend."

Entrepreneurship: "The activity of setting up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit."

Craft: "An activity involving skill in making things by hand."

Foundation: "The action of establishing an institution or organization on a permanent basis."

Background:

Even though the prisons have already taken steps to prevent recidivism, there is ample room for improvement. According to the Bureau of Government Statistics, in the U.S. as a whole "Almost half (47%) of prisoners who did not have an arrest within (the first) 3 years of release were arrested during years 4 through 9." According to WiseVoter statistics, "The recidivism rates in Alabama are 28.7%, ranking the state ninth in the country." Alabama's ranking is not only disappointing, but disturbing; something needs to be done.

Proposal:

In the effort to reduce the rate of recidivism in Alabama, the state should found the Foundation of Minor Inmate Entrepreneurships. This foundation would provide opportunities for inmates to discover and cultivate new hobbies from across the state and country. Every three months, prisons will partner with local charity workers and foundations, such as the National Charity League, to set up tables and tents to sell the inmates' work. Upon each purchase, the customer will be asked to write a note of encouragement to the prisoner, inspiring them to continue their craft and grow their passion. The money they make will go straight back to the government until the prisoner has paid back the money they borrowed for supplies. After that the prison will save the inmate's money until their release date.

Justification:

Although prison is meant to prevent crime and ensure the safety of the citizens outside the concrete walls, it is important to help those who will be released in the future. The community and government has the power to make a positive impression on people who have failed to conduct themselves in a legal manner in the past. One bad choice should not dictate a prisoner's life, however if not given ample opportunity to discover alternatives to illegal behavior, a vicious circle is all that ensues. Although it is impossible to prevent

bad choices, it is simpler than one thinks to prevent someone from making the same mistake twice. This is why the government must help the inmates to develop their passions for a brighter future.

Consequences:

This bill's potential to change the lives of prisoners far outweighs its negative consequences, if any. The government will have a new opportunity to prepare prisoners for release with the cultivation of hobbies and talents they may never have discovered. The government funding for this project is not a grant, but an investment in the future free citizens of the nation. Putting forth effort towards the well being of the incarcerated now, provides for a brighter, safer, and more prosperous future for all citizens of Alabama and the United States as a whole.

Enforcement:

Crucial changes take time and that is why all government prisons will have until January 1st of 2025 to provide the inmates with the materials necessary for their craft of choice as well as partnerships and plans with local charity leagues to host festivals every five months.

Payment:

The government will have to supply each prisoner who participates in the program with up to 100 dollars initially, but after the first few festivals, the money will be repaid to the government. The warden at the prisons will be responsible for determining which materials the prisoners need. They are also responsible for coordinating the festivals with local charity leagues. The upfront cost will be around \$700,000 for the state of Alabama. Because of this bill's sustainability each penny will be repaid if the festivals are successful. Further, Alabama will save approximately \$50,000 per prisoner per year who is helped by this bill, when taking into account the \$25,000 it costs to incarcerate a prisoner each year, in addition to another \$25,000 the prisoner turned law-abiding citizen would be adding to the economy per year.

Conflicting Laws:

Once signed by the governor, this bill will overrule any potentially conflicting laws.

Enactment:

Once approved, this bill will be effective immediately in order to provide prisons with the adequate time to organize the foundation.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY048

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Ava Faircloth,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Control Children's Communication

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- cyberbullying: bullying with the use of digital technology
- human trafficking: the act of transporting or forcing people to benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation
- sexual abuse: any interaction between a child and an adult in which the child is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or an observer
- perpetrator: a person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act
- exploitation: the action or fact of mistreating someone to benefit from their work

Section II: Proposal

Because of the amount of cyberbullying, abuse, and human trafficking online gaming with strangers has on a child's safety, this bill would, once enacted, prohibit children under 16 from playing online games where they interact and talk with other players they do not know. To ensure that a child is of age to play the game, the child will have to enter their social security number and face ID.

Section III: Justification

The rate of human trafficking, kidnapping, and cyberbullying has increased since video games have become more popular. At least 80% of children have reported feeling in danger of sexual abuse or exploitation. Cyberbullying has affected over a third of children in 30 countries.

Human traffickers have become more skillful in using internet platforms to attract clients. Children, looking for acceptance, friendship, or attention, are usually more susceptible to the deceptive ploys that human traffickers have to offer. This gives the traffickers more opportunities to interact with impressionable kids. Furthermore, it increases the risk of human traffickers

When young, naive children are allowed to directly talk to other players on video games, they may share personal information that they are not aware could be life-threatening. If the person talking with the child is a perpetrator, they will be taking this information and using it in the future. For example, a young kid could be asked where they live, and the child who doesn't know any better will tell the online stranger, thinking that they're just being friendly. This can result in the kidnapping of the child if they're too young and impressionable to know what is fine and what is wrong to share with online strangers. Therefore, outlawing a child under the age of 16 to play video games where they are directly communicating with strangers is the safest option.

Section IV: Consequences

After this bill is passed, it will limit exposure to the kids and ensure their safety online.

Section V: Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Child Protective Sources will enforce this bill. If this bill is passed, on the day it is signed into law to restrict children from directly speaking to other players online, they will have one year to remove accounts if necessary. If illegal accounts are not deleted, there will be a fine of \$5000. If the account is not removed within two years, there will be a fine of \$10000.

Section VI: Payment

This bill would not require additional payment.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY049

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Auston Parks,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: TikTok Ban for Alabama

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- TikTok a social media app owned by the Chinese-controlled company ByteDance
- Jurisdiction means all places under the criminal jurisdiction of Alabama
- Discrete violation means any time a user accesses, is offered the ability to access, or is offered the ability to download TikTok
- An entity is a mobile application store or TikTok

Section II: Proposal

This bill will prohibit mobile application stores from offering TikTok to its users in the jurisdiction of Alabama.

Section III: Justification

TikTok gathers an excessive amount of data from its users, including but not limited to the location of its users, their credit card and other payment information, and information about other apps being used on their phones.

TikTok also fails to remove and may even promote dangerous content that compels minors to unsafe activities (e.g. stealing school property, throwing objects at moving cars, taking excess amounts of medication).

TikTok's ability to share stolen information with the Chinese Communist Party infringes on Alabama's right to privacy. TikTok has already been caught tracking the locations of journalists who are critical of its activities using their IP addresses. The operation of TikTok in Alabama can be a tool for the CCP to conduct corporate and international espionage and even track the real-time location of people who are against its interests.

Section IV: Consequences

If this bill is enacted by the youth legislature of Alabama, it will protect the personal information of many Alabama citizens from being stolen, and it will prevent this information from being shared with an adversary of America. It will also keep unsafe ideas from being promoted to minors.

Section V: Enforcement

Any entity that violates this bill will be fined \$7,000 for a discrete violation and another \$7,000 each day the discrete violation continues. The Department of Justice will enforce this bill.

Section VI: Payment

This law will be paid for by the Department of Justice, as well as the fines collected from violations of this law.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY049

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

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Section I: Definitions

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- Jurisdiction means all places under the criminal jurisdiction of Alabama
- Discrete violation means any time a user accesses or is offered the ability to download TikTok
- An entity is a mobile application store or TikTok

Section II: Proposal

This bill will prohibit the operation of TikTok by the company or its users as well as the offering of TikTok to its users by mobile application stores in the jurisdiction of Alabama.

Section III: Justification

TikTok gathers an excessive amount of data from its users, including but not limited to the location of its users, their credit card and other payment information, and information about other apps being used on their phones.

TikTok also fails to remove and may even promote dangerous content that compels minors to unsafe activities (e.g. stealing school property, throwing objects at moving cars, taking excess amounts of medication).

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This law will be paid for by the Department of Justice, as well as the fines collected from violations of this law.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY050

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Nash Dorion,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Shoot Sown Shootings

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Firearm- a rifle, pistol, or other portable gun.
- Permitless carry- In the United States, the term constitutional carry, also called permitless carry, unrestricted carry, or Vermont carry, refers to the legal public carrying of a handgun, either openly or concealed, without a license or permit.
- Firearms license- A firearms license is a license or permit issued by a government authority of a jurisdiction, that allows the licensee to buy, own, possess, or carry a firearm, often subject to a number of conditions
 - Handgun-a gun designed for use by one hand, especially a pistol or revolver.

Section II: Proposal

- Because of the dangers that firearms present to the people of Alabama, this bill, once enacted, would repeal the bill allowing permitless carry in the state of Alabama. Citizens would have to obtain a license to continue carrying a concealed firearm.

Section III: Justification

Gun violence is a big problem in Alabama. Alabama has been one of the worst states for gun violence in the U.S., with 26.4 firearms deaths per 100,000 people in 2021, While other states with higher populations had lower rates, like New York with 5.4 deaths per 100,000 people. Alabama not only had higher gun death rates than New York, but a higher amount of gun deaths than New York in 2021, with Alabama having 1,315, and New York having 1,078. Many of these deaths were public shootings, which this bill would help prevent, by allowing less guns in public.

One example of this is the Dadeville shooting that happened only 4 months after the permitless carry bill came into effect. The shooting happened at a girls sixteenth birthday party, and ended with thirty-two injured, one four dead, one of whom was the older brother of the girl celebrating her birthday. If passed this bill would hopefully help prevent gun violence

Section IV: Consequences

If this bill is passed, it will help prevent public shootings, making our state safer, and preventing deaths.

Section V: Enforcement

This bill will be enforced by the Bureau of Firearms and local law enforcement. Any citizen carrying a firearm without a license will be fined and in some cases, imprisoned. If they fail to pay the fine for a year, they will be able to be held in prison for up to 6 months.

Section VI: Payment

The bill will be paid for by the Bureau of Firearms.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This Bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY051

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Mobile- Bayside

Author(s): Penny Snell,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Artificial intelligence Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1) Definitions

Artificial intelligence: A section of computing that learns and adapts from imputed data to generate results for questions it is asked. Artificial intelligence is designed to be machines that have the ability to think like humans, recognize patterns, make decisions, and judge like humans. AI art can be created through the technology's ability to find patterns in large datasets and use that information to create new or derivative visual content.

Bias: Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

Auditing: The on-site verification activity, such as inspection or examination, of a process or quality system, to ensure compliance to requirements

2) Background:

In recent years Artificial intelligence has developed rapidly and the technological regulations and laws around internet safety are outdated. Artificial technology is a useful tool that will only continue to advance, but regulations around the technology are necessary. Although AI has created jobs, many creative occupations are at risk of being overrun by Artificial Intelligence such as writers and artists. Artificial Intelligence should be used as a tool for creation instead of replacing creative positions which brings up if ethical and trustworthy information is being created by deriving from the writers and artists the engine takes it from and if there should be any protection for these people. Issues regarding the information produced from AI search engines concern the possibilities of bias in the inputted data into the engine. Biased information can spread false information and enforce discriminatory behavior through the engine. The information being generated by AI search and art engines has little concern for ethical guidelines as well creating controversial content. Ethical and discriminatory concerns should be addressed when it comes to Artificial technology and making the information source clear so as to not diminish the work of the original creators of the inputted data the engine was fed.

3) Proposal

Protection against perpetuated biases and ethical breaches in generated information created by AI algorithms:

Regulations should be implemented that require transparency of the actions AI algorithms are taking by making it clear what criteria and what data sources are used in training the AI model. To prevent bias from

Artificial Intelligence search engines and art generators, the sources of where the information came from should be clear and regular bias audits should be

implemented. By requiring bias audits for AI it can be assessed if there are any biases in an algorithm and evaluate how the system could impact different demographics while ensuring the information collected is fair. Developing and adhering to ethical guidelines will also protect information that is collected by the search engine from being biased or harmful. Before releasing an algorithm to the public the state should assess whether the information is reliable.

4) Justification

By issuing auditing teams and having the AI systems pass through the Alabama Council on Advanced Technology and Artificial Intelligence, more trustworthy and ethically sourced information can be shared with the public. Having AI algorithms created by either companies or individuals go through actual people can help filter the systems to make sure that in the case of an art generator, that the images are appropriate and follow copyright laws. In the case of an information generator, such as ChatGPT, by filtering the system through actual people, the AI will refrain from having biased or discriminatory information.

5) Enforcement

Auditing bodies are implemented to enforce the necessity for assessing ethical practices and bias in AI systems. In order for an AI system to be issued to the public in Alabama, the person behind the system must have it first passed through the Alabama Council on Advanced Technology and Artificial Intelligence where it can be assessed if the information is liable or ethical.

6) Penalties

By not adhering to the ethical guidelines that protect against discrimination, implementing auditing for bias, and granting transparency in the AI algorithm, the creator of the Artificial Intelligence should be fined for refusing to comply with the terms for ethical use and bias for AI.

7) Repealer clause

Any and all laws found to be in conflict with this bill will be null and void upon its passage.

8) Effective Date

The bill will go into effect 90 days after passage.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY052

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Hoover- Spain Park

Author(s): Mady Feola,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Oldies Off the Road

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

- Light Perception: The ability to detect light
- Reflexes: An action that is performed as a response to a stimulus and without conscious thought.
 - Focus: The state or quality of having or producing clear visual definition.
- Color Perception: Color perception, a feature of visual perception, is an ability to perceive differences between light composed of different frequencies independently of light intensity.
- Depth Perception: The ability to perceive the relative distance of objects in one's visual field.
- Felony: A crime, typically one involving violence, regarded as more serious than a misdemeanor, and usually punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.
 - ALDOT: Alabama Department of Transportation
 - DMV: Department of Motor Vehicles

Section II: Proposal

This bill will change the law for people the age of 75 and older, they will need to retake their drivers license, and get their sight, hearing, reflexes checked and approved to be driving again. They will have to be checked every 3 years since health will only continue to decrease rapidly.

Section III: Justification

This bill should be enacted because as you get older your vision gets weaker, your reflexes get slower, and your hearing decreases. Extensive scientific research has shown that as people age there is a quick and sharp decline in skills needed for safe driving.

- Light Perception Issues

- The biggest problem with older citizens driving is that your vision changes a lot, for example your light perception is very different. A 60-year old driver needs 10 times as much light as a 19-year old driver (This is why older drivers should avoid driving at night as much as possible).

- Reflexes Issue

- Reflexes get slower which could cause older drivers to not be able to press their brakes or turn their steering wheel fast enough in an incident that you need to. Also weak and stiff joints can make it harder for them to look behind them when backing up or to turn their heads as far when needed to.

- Focus Issue

- Younger driver's eyes can change focus from near to far in about 2 seconds, and drivers over 40 take 3 seconds or more. Your focus only decreases more and more with age.
 - Color Perception Issue
- Your color perception also changes with age; the color red especially gets harder to see with age, so an older driver might take twice as long to see the flash of a brake light compared to a younger driver.
 - Depth Perception Issue
- Elderly depth perception changes as they get older, usually making it harder for them to judge how fast other cars are moving. It is also shown that drivers over the age of 70 are more likely to crash than drivers over the age of 25.

This bill is mainly to protect the lives of everyone on the road, whether that's younger or older citizens. The bigger problem within this is that older citizens are more fragile and can get hurt worse or even die from a crash.

Section IV: Consequences

Driving without a license in Alabama is considered a felony with the fine being anywhere from \$100-\$10,000 for a first offender. A first offense penalty gives chances of jail time less than 180 days and immediate impoundment of the vehicle.

Section V: Enforcement

This will be enforced by the Alabama Department Of Transportation.

Section VI: Payment

This would just fall into the DMV and what they do. About 95 percent of all DMV expenditures are supported from the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA), which generates its revenues primarily from vehicle registration and driver license fees.

Section VII: Conflicting Laws

This law will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VIII: Enactment

The bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY053

Committee: 1

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Kaleigh Soto,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Safety on the Water

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1. Definitions:

Boater safety certification- a boating license obtained by passing the boater safety examination or taking a boating course

2. Proposal:

This bill changes the age requirements for obtaining a boater safety certification. The current required age to obtain a certification is 12 years or older, but the driver is not able to operate a water vessel alone until they reach the age of 14. This bill states that one must be 14 years of age to obtain a boater safety certification (they must be accompanied by a vessel licensed driver that is at least 21 years old) and 16 years of age to operate a water vessel alone.

3. Justification:

The U.S. Coast Guard has reported 72 recreational boat accidents in 2022 alone. The number of these accidents increase every year and having people under the age of 16 operating a water vessel alone such as a boat may be the cause of some of these accidents. Having experience with operating a car will give the driver more experience with handling vehicles. In addition, 14 year old drivers who have another certified driver in the vessel will have assistance when learning how to operate a boat until they reach the age of 16. Many states such as Florida and Delaware already have a higher age requirement for operating a watercraft.

4. Enforcement:

This bill will be enforced by the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

5. Funding:

There will be no additional funding required for this bill.

6. Conflicting Laws:

This bill will override conflicting laws once enacted.

7. Enactment:

This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor or its otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY054

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Montgomery- Saint James

Author(s): Kevin Hwang,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Highlighted Car Plates

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

1. Definitions:

Highlighted car plate is a car plate that is highlighted in a easy visible colors.

2. Proposal:

Because of the increased amount of drunk driving accidents, the usage of highlighted car plates would be useful to avoid such cars.

3. Justification:

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), they reported 268 drunk driving fatalities in Alabama in a recent year, which shows 5.49 fatalities per 100,000 Alabamians. Also, looking at the accidents caused by DUIs, nationally, there are 37 people dying everyday: which is a person dying per 39 minutes. Although Alabama doesn't have numerous accidents like other states such as: Montana, South Dekota, and Texas (the three most highest), using highlighted plates would decrease the casualties, and save the everyday lives of the families of victims. Three of the states(Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota) that are using the highlighted plates only highlight the number and have a special series of numbers. However, in this case, it is hard to look and the majority of people don't realize it often. So, in suggestion, the highlighted plates should be all highlighted leaving no blank space.

4. Consequences:

If a person was caught driving under the influence of drugs, alcohols, etc, they would have to attach the highlighted car plate for minimum one month up to six months.

5. Enforcement:

This law will be enforced by the Alabama Department of public safety.

6. Payment:

Payment would have to be made by the driver themselves.

7. Conflicting Laws:

This bill will override conflicting laws once enacted.

8. Enactment:

This bill shall become effective immediately after its passage and approval by the governor or its otherwise becoming law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY055

Committee: 2

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Ozark- Carroll High School

Author(s): D.J. Colby, Lillian Byars

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Alabama Child Protection Services Enhancement Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Purpose and Findings

1. Purpose: The purpose of this act is to enhance and strengthen child protection services in the state of Alabama to ensure the safety and well-being of children.
2. Findings: The legislature finds that there is a need for cognitive and comprehensive improvements in the child protection system to address emerging challenges and provide effective support for vulnerable children and families.

Section II: Establishment of a Statewide Child Protection Task Force

1. Creation: There shall be established a Statewide Child Protection Task Force composed of representatives from relevant government agencies, child advocacy organizations, legal experts, and community stakeholders.
2. Duties: The Task Force shall be responsible for conducting a comprehensive review of the existing child protection services, identifying gaps, and recommending evidence-based strategies to enhance the effectiveness and safety of child protection in Alabama.
3. Report: The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its establishment. Along with a report an agenda with new findings along with areas to grow to make preparation for each new year better.

Section III: Strengthening Child Protective Services

1. Funding Allocation: The Legislature shall allocate additional funds to the Alabama Department of Human Resources for the purpose of hiring and training additional child protection services personnel, including social workers, investigators, and support staff.
2. Technology Enhancement: The Department of Human Resources shall invest in modern technology to be efficient in streamline case management, improve information sharing among agencies while maintaining privacy of one's record, and enhance communication between child protection workers and other relevant stakeholders.
3. Community Outreach: Child protection agencies shall engage in proactive community outreach programs to educate the public about child abuse prevention, reporting procedures, and available support services.

Section IV: Child Welfare Training and Support

1. Professional Development: The Department of Human Resources shall establish and maintain a comprehensive training program for child protection services personnel, covering areas such as trauma-informed care, cultural competency, and effective communication.

2. Mental Health Support: Child protection workers shall have access to mental health support services to address the emotional challenges associated with their work.

Section V: Collaboration with External Organizations

1. Collaboration Agreements: Child protection agencies shall enter into collaborative agreements with non-profit organizations, community groups, and educational institutions to leverage resources and expertise in child welfare.
2. Joint Initiatives: The state shall support joint initiatives between child protection services and external organizations aimed at addressing systemic issues contributing to child abuse and neglect.

Section VI: Reporting and Evaluation

1. Annual Report: The Department of Human Resources shall submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing the progress made in implementing the provisions of this act, including any challenges faced and proposed solutions.
2. Independent Evaluation: An independent evaluation of the child protection system's effectiveness shall be conducted every three years, with the findings and recommendations shared with the Legislature and the public.

Section VII: Severability

1. If any realm of this act or application to any person or circumstances is to be invalid, the rest of the act or application of the provisions to circumstances shall not be affected.

Section VIII: Enactment Clause

1. The bill will become effective January 1st, 2024, upon its enactment and approval by the governor or otherwise becoming a law.



ALABAMA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

YMCA Youth Legislature 2024

February 23-February 25, 2024

Delegate Bill # FY056

Committee: 4

Chamber: First-Year

Delegation: Ozark- Carroll High School

Author(s): Jordan Graves,

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Title: Teacher Firearms Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA

Section I: Definitions

Firearms - A gun that uses an explosive charge by gunpowder.

Firearms License - A firearm License is a license or permit given by the government if applied, to carry or possess a firearm.

Section II: Proposal

Require all public school teachers in the state of Alabama to be granted a supplement of certification processes for firearm usage if they so choose. The certification process for those who choose to carry firearms will ensure proper instruction on firearm safety. The topics of the course will include de-escalation techniques and crisis management. In addition to this, there will be an implementation of conflict resolution programs to educate students on proper and effective communication, empathy and problem solving, which can help de-escalate conflicts before they escalate into violence while promoting mental health and a positive school environment.

Section III: Justification

By 2016, there had been over 10,000 homicides by firearms in the US. In 2019 to 2020, there were 25 school-associated violence in the United States. These included 23 homicides and 1 suicide. The age range of school children of 5-18, there was 11 homicides and 1 suicide. From 2000- 2021 there have been 108 killed and 168 wounded in an active shooter incident at elementary and high schools. Therefore, if teachers were armed with a firearm, hidden of course, that could have frightened the shooter. The shooter would want control, this takes the "control" feeling away from the shooter. Shooters also want to kill as much as possible, but they will not want to do that if someone else has the "power" as well. At this point the shooter is not the only one who has a firearm. If these teachers do want to carry a firearm in their classroom, they have to go through training and the certification process. This bill will mainly focus on protecting the students and the teachers.

Section IV: Funding

These funds derive from the general fund.

Section V: Severability Clause

This bill will override all conflicting laws upon the governor's signing.

Section VI: Enforcement

If any teacher or faculty member is caught in possession of an illegal firearm or caught with a firearm without a Firearms license, the perpetrator will serve a minimum of 2 years of jail time and a fine up to \$1,000.

Section VII: Enactment

This bill shall be successful instantly after the bill is approved and signed by the Governor.

75th Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature

Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 22, 2024

11:30 a.m. Governor's Cabinet Luncheon Embassy Suites Hotel: Ballroom
7:00 p.m. Youth Legislature Officers Meeting Embassy Suites Hotel: Capitol I & II

Friday, February 23, 2024

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Delegation Check in Embassy Suites/ Registration
9:00 Officer's Meeting..... Embassy Suites Hotel: Capitol I & II
9:00 Supreme Court Meeting Hotel: Commerce Board Room
9:15 Committee Chair Meeting Hotel: Salon A
10:00 Opening Session..... Embassy Suites Ballroom

Senate	House	First Year
10:30 – Bus to Statehouse 11:00 – Committees (Statehouse) 12:15 – Lunch (RSA Plaza) 12:15 – Rules Committee* (Statehouse Rm. 325) 1:15 – Convene – Senate Chamber	10:30 – Committees (Statehouse) 11:00 – Committees 11:45 – Lunch (RSA Plaza) 11:45 – Rules Committee* (Statehouse Rm. 617) 12:30 – Convene – House Chamber	10:30 – Convene (Embassy Ballroom) 11:00 – Bus to Lunch 11:15 – Lunch (RSA Plaza) 11:15 – Rules Committee* (Statehouse Rm.206) 12:15 – Convene – Statehouse Rm. 200 12:30 – Committees (Statehouse)
Media	Lobbyists	Supreme Court
10:00 – Opening (Embassy Ballroom) 10:30 – Meeting (Hotel: Commerce Board Room) 12:15 – Bus to Lunch 12:30 – Lunch (RSA Plaza)	9:30 – Meeting – Hotel: Capitol III 10:00 – Opening (Embassy Ballroom) 10:45 – Bus to Statehouse 12:00 – Lunch 1:30 – Meeting – Statehouse 325	9:00 – Meeting – Hotel: Salon B 10:00 – Opening (Embassy Ballroom) 10:30 – Bus to Judicial Building 12:30 – Lunch - RSA Plaza 6 th Floor 2:00 PM – In Session State House 8th Fl. Joint Briefing Rm.

*Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs will meet for rules committee; lunch will be available.

2:00 p.m. Supreme Court in Session to hear Constitutional Challenges State House: 8th Fl. Joint Briefing Rm.
2:30 Governor's News Conference..... State House Rm# 320
4:30 Adult Meeting State House Rm# 617
5:00 First Year Recesses to Dinner RSA Plaza
5:45 Senate Recesses to Dinner RSA Plaza
6:15 House Adjourns to Dinner RSA Plaza
6:15 – 7:30 First Year Reconvenes State House Room 200
6:15 – 7:30 Senate Reconvenes Senate Chamber 7th floor.
7:00 House busses to hotel
7:00 – 8:00 Buses Operate from State House to Hotel
9:00 Supreme Court Public Hearing – All Delegates..... Embassy Suites: Ballroom
9:30 Officer Speeches..... Embassy Suites: Ballroom
10:30 Devotional [Led by Senate Chaplain and College Staff] Embassy Suites: Ballroom
10:40 Officer's Meeting & Rules Committees Embassy Suites: Capitol I & II
11:00 Curfew – In your own room

Saturday, February 24, 2024

6:30 – 8:30 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast..... Embassy Suites Hotel
8:30-9:30 Buses operate to State House Meet in Lobby
9:30 Sessions Reconvene State House
11:00 First Year Recesses to Lunch RSA Plaza
11:30 Senate Recesses to Lunch RSA Plaza
12:15 House Recesses to Lunch RSA Plaza
[All Chambers reconvene 45 minutes after Recess]
3:00 All Chambers adjourn Sine Die
3:15-4:00 Joint Session – Governor's Debate House Chamber 5th floor
4:00 Buses operate from State House to Hotel.....

Voting Times by District: [Dist. 1 – 4:30] [Dist. 2 – 4:45] [Dist. 3 – 5:00] [Dist. 4 – 5:15] [Closed – 5:45 p.m.]

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner Embassy Salon ABC
8:00 – 8:45 Runoff Election (if needed)..... Hotel Reg Booth
8:45 Lead out followed by Governor's Ball Embassy Suites: Ballroom
9:00 – 10:30 Photo booth & Games..... Embassy Suites: Salon ABC
10:30 Devotional [Led by House Chaplain and College Staff] Embassy Suites: Ballroom
11:00 Curfew - In your own room.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast..... Embassy Suites Hotel
9:30 a.m. Awards Ceremony Embassy Suites: Ballroom
10:45 a.m. Adjourn (Sleeping rooms must be vacated by 11:00 AM)

75th Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature

Schedule of Events

Meal Schedule

Friday Lunch RSA Plaza

11:15 First Year & Media
11:45 House
12:15 Senate
12:30 Media & Supreme Court

[Each chamber will reconvene 45 minutes after recessing for lunch]

Saturday Lunch RSA Plaza

11:00 First Year & Media
11:30 Senate, Lobbyist, Supreme Court
12:15 House

Friday Supper RSA Plaza

5:00 First Year
[First Year will Reconvene at 6:15 p.m. in the House Chamber (5th floor)]
5:45 Senate, Lobbyists
[Senate will Reconvene at 6:15 pm]
6:15 House, Media & Supreme Court
[House members will load bus after meal for travel to hotel]

Saturday Dinner Embassy

6:00 All Groups

Directions to the RSA Plaza

✦ From the State House: Take the Elevator to the 2nd Floor. Take a Left to exit outside doors. Cross Street - RSA Plaza faces Washington Ave. Enter the front door and follow signs.

State House Directory

2 nd Floor	Ground Level (Main Lobby) First Year Chamber (Rm#200)
3 rd Floor	Select Committee Rooms Youth Governor's Office (Rm #304)
5 th Floor	House Chamber
6 th Floor	House Gallery Info Station Lobbyist HQ
7 th Floor	Senate Chamber
8 th Floor	(Access by stairs only) Senate Gallery Supreme Court (Joint Briefing Room)

All Rooming Locations:

Embassy Suites Hotel

300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 269-5055

Conference Office:
Registration Booth 1st Floor

Conference Hotline:
334-318-1549