

1 SJR62  
2 191376-2  
3 By Senators Melson, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn,  
5 Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston,  
6 Marsh, McClendon, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Sanders, Sanford,  
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 13-FEB-18

1 SJR62

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4 ENROLLED, SJR62,

5 URGING THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL SPECIALITIES TO  
6 HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE BURDEN AND COST OF THE  
7 MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ON ALABAMA PHYSICIANS.

8  
9 WHEREAS, Alabama physicians support lifelong  
10 learning, self-regulation and the highest standards for  
11 medical care; and

12 WHEREAS, some physicians, in addition to maintaining  
13 state medical licensure, also voluntarily pursue board  
14 certification within their respective medical specialties to  
15 further their education, knowledge, experience, and skills;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, up until the American Board of Medical  
18 Specialities (ABMS) created its Maintenance of Certification  
19 (MOC) program, medical specialty board certification was  
20 largely held as a lifetime credential; and

21 WHEREAS, Alabama physicians desiring to maintain  
22 their specialty board certification believe the current MOC  
23 program neither reflects the realities of their individual  
24 practice environments nor does it improve quality of medical  
25 care; and

1           WHEREAS, the increasingly burdensome requirements of  
2 MOC, which include significant time away from clinical  
3 practice and considerable financial expenditures necessary for  
4 board review courses and materials and travel to testing  
5 sites, have driven some physicians to drop board certification  
6 altogether; and

7           WHEREAS, ABMS member boards, in the opinion of  
8 Alabama physicians, have abused the privilege with which they  
9 have been entrusted by their diplomates through punitive  
10 application of MOC at the expense of Alabama physicians, their  
11 families, and ultimately, Alabama patients; and

12           WHEREAS, while speciality board certification  
13 remains technically voluntary, certification has increasingly  
14 become a requirement for hospital staff privileges and  
15 reimbursement; and

16           WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of  
17 Alabama adopted at its 2017 Annual Session an official policy  
18 supporting maintenance of skills and other efforts to improve  
19 quality of care but opposing "any further requirements for MOC  
20 as a condition of licensure, reimbursement, employment or  
21 admitting privileges at a hospital"; and

22           WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of  
23 Alabama's MOC Study Committee, recognizing the multitude of  
24 problems with the current AMBS MOC model, believes the  
25 National Board of Physicians and Surgeons should also be given

1 consideration by physicians seeking specialty board  
2 certification; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the ABMS is called upon to  
5 exhibit leadership and influence in encouraging its member  
6 boards to make immediate changes to their MOC progress, and  
7 changes should at a minimum include an end to mandatory  
8 high-stakes testing, creation of other pathways for  
9 recertification, and a significant reduction in cost and time  
10 required of physicians.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That while pursuit of  
12 federal or state legislative remedies remains a possibility,  
13 absent substantial improvement in MOC in the aforementioned  
14 areas, ABMS can likely expect further physician exodus en  
15 masse in favor of certifying boards with clinically relevant  
16 programs that foster lifelong learning in a non-punitive  
17 manner.

18 BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
19 resolution be sent to the American Board of Medical  
20 Specialities and each member of the Alabama Congressional  
21 Delegation.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR62  
Senate 13-FEB-18  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 20-FEB-18

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By: Senator Melson