SB397

200363-3

By Senators Marsh, Orr, McClendon, Roberts, Chambliss, Albritton, Elliott, Livingston, Gudger, Price, Givhan, Shelnutt, Stutts, Waggoner, Sessions, Williams, Whatley, Reed, Ward, Jones and Melson (Constitutional Amendment)

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 09-MAY-19
To propose an amendment to Amendment 284 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 262 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, relating to the composition of the State Board of Education and the appointment of the State Superintendent of Education; to change the name of the board to the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education; to change the name of the superintendent to the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education; to require the members of the commission to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate; to require the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education to be appointed by the commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate; and to authorize the Governor to appoint a team of local educators and other officials to advise the commission on matters relating to the functioning and duties of the State Department of Education.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the statewide primary election held on March 3, 2020, and in accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Amendment 284 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 262 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, is amended to read as follows:

"Amendment 284.

1. General supervision of the public schools in Alabama and the State Department of Education shall be vested in a state board of education, which the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education. One member of the commission shall be elected appointed by the Governor from each state congressional district, as those districts exist on the date of appointment, and any additional members, if necessary, shall be appointed by the Governor from the state at large, so that each congressional district is represented on the commission and the total number of appointed members equals nine. In the event the number of state congressional districts is greater than nine, the Legislature shall provide an alternative method for the appointment of the nine
appointed members. Each member appointed to the commission shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate in such manner as the legislature may provide. The Governor shall ensure that the appointed membership of the commission reflects the geographical, gender, and racial diversity of the students enrolled in public K-12 education in the state. Unless otherwise provided by the Legislature for initially staggered terms and for the filling of an unexpired term created by a vacancy, appointed members of the commission shall serve for terms of six years and may not serve for more than two full consecutive terms on the commission. Upon ratification of this amendment, and the appointment of the members of the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to this amendment, respectively, the terms of the then serving members of the State Board of Education shall end.

"2. The chief state school officer shall be the state superintendent of education Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, who shall be appointed by the State Board of Education commission, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The secretary shall be a nonvoting member of the commission and shall serve at its pleasure in the position of secretary until a successor is appointed. If the Legislature is not in session when a vacancy in the position of secretary occurs, the commission shall appoint an interim secretary and shall submit the name of an individual for confirmation for the position of secretary during the next regular legislative
session. If the Legislature does not confirm the appointee
within five legislative days, the position of secretary shall
be vacant and the commission shall appoint another individual
to the position of interim secretary. The authority and duties
of the superintendent of education secretary, and the terms
and conditions of his or her employment including, but not
limited to, tenure in office, shall be determined by the state
board of education according to such regulations as the
legislature may prescribe commission. The superintendent of
education secretary shall receive an annual salary which shall
be fixed by the legislature of Alabama commission and shall be
paid from the state treasury State Treasury in installments as
the salaries of other state officers are paid.

"3. The legislature Legislature shall enact
appropriate laws to implement or enforce this article of
amendment.

"4. The provisions of article Articles V and XIV of
the Constitution of Alabama as amended in conflict with this
article amendment are expressly repealed. However, this
amendment shall not be so construed as to effect the election
or term of the state superintendent of education chosen before
it becomes valid as a part of the Constitution.

"5. In addition to any function or duty provided by
general law, the commission shall adopt all of the following:

"a. Course of study standards that ensure nationwide
consistency and the seamless transfer of students from within
and outside of the state, in lieu of common core.
"b. A comprehensive educator certification program.

c. A comprehensive professional development program for educators.

d. A comprehensive assessment system.

e. A comprehensive accountability system.

6. Immediately after the commission members are appointed and confirmed, the Governor shall appoint a diverse team, that is reflective of the geographical, gender, and racial diversity of the state, of current and former educators, school administrators, and appropriate officials from throughout the state, as determined necessary by the Governor, to consult with and make recommendations to the commission on a regular basis relating to the operation and functioning of the State Department of Education.

7. The State Department of Education shall be governed by the commission and shall work in coordination with local boards of education."

Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this state.

Section 3. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the
following description of the substance or subject matter of
the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
Alabama of 1901, to change the name of the State Board of
Education to the Alabama Commission on Elementary and
Secondary Education; to provide for the appointment of the
members of the commission by the Governor, subject to
confirmation by the Senate; to change the name of the State
Superintendent of Education to the Secretary of Elementary and
Secondary Education; to provide for the appointment of the
secretary by the commission, subject to confirmation by the
Senate; and to authorize the Governor to appoint a team of
local educators and other officials to advise the commission
on matters relating to the functioning and duties of the State
Department of Education.

"Proposed by Act ________." 

This description shall be followed by the following
language:

"Yes ( ) No ( )."
Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Education Policy.................... 09-MAY-19

Read for the second time and placed on the calendar............................................ 14-MAY-19

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 16-MAY-19

Yeas 30
Nays 0

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.