By Representatives Collins, Baker, Meadows, Daniels, Chestnut, Scott, Holmes, Sanderford, Ledbetter, Wilcox, Oliver, Whitt, Crawford, Stringer, Isbell, Estes, Wadsworth, Ingram, Reynolds, Brown (K), Brown (C), Wingo, McMillan, Wood (D), Carns, Kiel, Nordgren, Smith, Gaston, Treadaway, Hurst, McCutcheon, Farley, Clarke, Warren, Forte, Drummond, Boyd, Fincher, Coleman and Ball

RFD: Rules

First Read: 25-FEB-21
COMMENDING PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATORS AND ENCOURAGING THE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS IN RESPONSE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the continuing coronavirus pandemic has
presented challenges to every individual, and unique
challenges to those who are charged with educating our young; and

WHEREAS, Alabama educators are worthy of our praise
for their valiant efforts in continuing to provide instruction
to our children during the most challenging of circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment
Program (ACAP), a new statewide assessment for all students in
2nd through 8th grades, originally planned to be administered
in spring of 2020, and now planned to be administered
in-person in March 2021, is a necessary tool for assessing
current student learning and the impact of the pandemic on
students and schools; and
WHEREAS, it is predicted that the current uncertain climate in the state may have greatly affected the performance of students, resulting in the consideration of skewed, unreasonable, or biased results by state programs that recognize high performing schools and penalize low performing schools with letter grades and failing labels; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and applaud all public school educators in the state for bravely continuing to instruct their students during the current pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Department of Education is encouraged to administer, and all school systems and students in the state encouraged to participate in-person in the taking of, the ACAP so that a baseline for the assessment may be accurately established in the state and any learning gaps may be effectively addressed through equitable funding as the state moves forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Department of Education is also encouraged to take any steps necessary to waive all accountability indicators for the year 2021, including, but not limited to, the Legislative School Performance Recognition Program, the school grading system, the designation of schools as failing schools, and the levy of any penalties against school systems, schools, educators, or students, with the goal of promoting the administration and
use of ACAP data to best address instructional needs and move Alabama K-12 students forward toward excellence.