

## **Resolution # 2**

### **Commending the Republican Legislative Majority for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of accomplishments in the 2012 Regular Session.**

Whereas, the days of the 'do-nothing' Legislature in Alabama are over and the Republican majority have built upon their momentum this year and passed conservative reforms; and

Whereas, the Republican majority passed bills that are creating jobs and lowering Alabama's unemployment rate; overhauled the state's pension system, cut red tape for consumers and small businesses, streamlined government agencies to remove unnecessary bureaucracy; and strengthened the state's immigration law; and

Whereas, with the support and engagement from Gov. Robert Bentley, Lt. Governor Kay Ivey, Agriculture & Industries Commissioner John McMillan, Secretary of State Beth Chapman, Attorney General Luther Strange, State Auditor Samantha Shaw, State Treasurer Young Boozer, and Public Service Commissioners Twinkle Cavanaugh and Terry Dunn, and all of Alabama's State Republican Executive Committee members support, and the chartered Republican groups support, Speaker Mike Hubbard and Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh and the Republican leadership of the Alabama House and Alabama Senate made it clear from that their top priority in 2012 would be job creation and economic growth and that passage of pro-growth jobs bills that are already beginning to have a positive effect on Alabama's economy; and

Whereas, some of the major accomplishments during the 2012 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature include:

- Enhanced Incentives to Recruit Job-Creating Coal Mining Projects; this new law enhances the state's ability to recruit coal mining companies by allowing them to qualify for certain existing tax incentives currently available to manufacturers and other businesses.
- The "Heroes for Hire" Tax Credit Act ; this new law offers Alabama businesses a \$2000 tax credit for hiring a veteran recently returned from war.
- Aviation and Aerospace Economic Incentives; this new law provides for a special tax incentive allowing Alabama to target aircraft manufacturers and aircraft parts manufacturers.
- Alabama Film Incentive Enhancement Act; this new law expands Alabama's film/television production incentive cap from \$10 to \$15 million, making Alabama more competitive in the industry.
- The Alabama Data Processing Center Economic Incentive Enhancement Act, this new law expands the scope of certain tax incentives in order to focus on recruiting more data processing centers to Alabama.
- Spurring Investment in Struggling Communities, This new law would encourage economic investment and job growth in low income areas by leveraging available federal tax incentives with new state tax incentive offerings.

- Flexible Capital Tax Credits for Job Creators; this new law would allow new and expanding businesses that spend at least \$100 million on capital improvements and hire at least 100 people to delay the tax credit for up to four years.
- Public Database of Bids and Contract Proposals Involving Taxpayer Money, This new law would require the state comptroller to create and maintain a public database on the [www.Open.Alabama.gov](http://www.Open.Alabama.gov) website on which bids or contract proposals involving state funds or federal grant money must be posted.
- Public School Accountability and Performance Incentive plan; this new law would establish a simple, comprehensive and consistent system to grade school performance, allowing parents and community leaders to better understand how their local schools are faring.
- Rewarding Teacher Certification; This new law would set aside \$2.3 million in a conditional appropriation to fund a \$5,000 bonus for teachers who become national board certified.
- Funding Classroom Supplies for Teachers; this new law makes a special appropriation that affords each classroom teacher \$300 to spend on classroom supplies and materials.
- Pension Reform, this landmark new law sets a minimum retirement age of 62 for most employees and 56 for law enforcement, saving the state more than \$3 billion over 30 years.
- No Taxpayer-Funded Benefits for Felons; this new law would make any public employee who is convicted of a felony ineligible for state retirement benefits.
- Constitutional Reform; updates and modernizes language in Article 12 of the 1901 Alabama Constitution dealing with private corporations, railroads and canals and updates Article 13 dealing with banks and banking law.
- Coastal Insurance Reform; the “Homeowners Bill of Rights Act,” which would require insurance companies to be transparent about exactly what coverage is offered in their policies.
- Cracking Down on Unemployment Fraud ; Under this new law, those caught defrauding the unemployment compensation fund of more than \$2,500 will be guilty of a Class B felony. Less than \$2,500 constitutes a Class B felony, and less than \$500 is a Class A misdemeanor.
- Streamlined Tax Filing for Businesses; This new law will streamline the process for businesses filing tax returns with cities and counties across the state, a key recommendation from both Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh’s Initiative to Streamline Government and House Speaker Mike Hubbard’s Commission on Job Creation.
- Restricting Funeral Disruptions, this new law sets a perimeter of 1000 feet, or two blocks, for any disruption of a funeral in Alabama.
- Toughening Penalties on Street-Level Drug ; this new law makes it a “Class B” felony to carry over 8 grams of illegal substance, helping law enforcement prosecute street level dealers with tougher penalties.
- Reorganizing ALDOT to Ensure Accountability, Responsiveness; adding up to three deputies to help oversee this process and designating the chief engineer as an appointed position will translate into more accountability and responsiveness from the Department.
- Sales Tax Holiday for Storm Preparation and Response Supplies; this new law is designed to encourage residents to purchase supplies life-saving storm preparation and response supplies by removing state sales tax on certain items during the last week of February each year.

- Improving state's anti-illegal immigration law; revises Alabama's illegal immigration law to make it more workable for local governments, more enforceable for state and local police, and less burdensome for law-abiding citizens and businesses; the changes help strengthen Alabama's position in defending the law against complaints brought by illegal immigration agitators and advocates; now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY, that we commend and acknowledge the accomplishments of the Republican legislative majority for their passing bills that are creating new jobs, lowering Alabama's unemployment rate, overhauling our state's pension system, cutting red tape for consumers and small businesses, and streamlining state government agencies to remove unnecessary bureaucracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY, we commend the Republican Senate and House members on the Legislative Committee on Reapportionment for their tireless hard work, holding 22 public hearings, due diligence, transparency and encouraging the public to be engaged in the reapportionment process , and we commend the leadership of the Alabama Legislature for the redistricting Special Session which they enacted fair legislative districts across Alabama.

*By Resolutions Committee Chair*