

1 SJR36
2 167425-1
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 16-APR-15

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8 URGING ADULT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MINORS AND URGING
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTORS, AND COURTS TO ENFORCE THE LAW
10 REGARDING CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR.

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12 WHEREAS, crimes perpetrated by and against juveniles
13 are a continuing concern for the State of Alabama and the
14 nation; and

15 WHEREAS, juvenile delinquency can destroy
16 unfulfilled potential in our youth; and

17 WHEREAS, the loss of young people to violent crimes
18 jeopardizes the promise of the future; and

19 WHEREAS, there is much debate about the causes and
20 remedies for juvenile crimes; and

21 WHEREAS, while there is no one cause of juvenile
22 delinquency, children who are neglected and do not receive
23 adequate adult supervision or who are encouraged by adults to
24 participate in delinquent behavior are at risk of continuing
25 to commit crimes or of becoming victims of the crimes of
26 others; and

1 WHEREAS, society recognizes that minors need
2 protection during their development due to lack of experience,
3 maturity, and decision-making capacity; and

4 WHEREAS, Alabama's public policy includes a
5 prohibition against contributing to the delinquency of minors,
6 codified by Section 12-15-111 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
7 which holds parents, legal guardians, legal custodians, or
8 other persons criminally liable for contributing to the
9 delinquency of a minor by willfully aiding, encouraging, or
10 causing any child to become or remain delinquent, dependent,
11 or in need of supervision, permitting or encouraging the
12 employment of a child in violation of child labor laws, or
13 causing a child to fail to attend school as required by the
14 compulsory school attendance law; and

15 WHEREAS, when children are placed at risk of
16 delinquency, continuing criminal behavior, or becoming a
17 victim of crime due to the actions or inactions of the
18 responsible adults in their lives, the state should protect
19 the child; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge law enforcement,
22 prosecutors, and the juvenile court system to take all of the
23 following actions:

24 (1) Investigate the involvement of parents, legal
25 guardians, legal custodians, or other person having custody,
26 control, or supervision of a child subject to proceedings

1 under the Alabama Juvenile Justice Act, Chapter 15, Title 12,
2 Code of Alabama 1975.

3 (2) Investigate whether any other person not
4 standing in any relation to the child has aided, encouraged,
5 or caused the child to become delinquent, dependent, or in
6 need of supervision.

7 (3) Enforce Section 12-15-111 of the Code of Alabama
8 1975, when it appears to the juvenile court that a parent,
9 legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person having
10 custody, control, or supervision of a child or any other
11 person not standing in any relation to the child has aided,
12 encouraged, or caused the child to become delinquent,
13 dependent, or in need of supervision in violation of state
14 law.