HR 312—URGING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ELECT TO BECOME CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature enacted the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act, also known as Act 2015-3, on March 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature wishes to implement high quality charter schools in partnership with local school boards and the Alabama Commission for Public Charter Schools serving as charter school authorizers; and

WHEREAS, Act 2015-3 requires local school boards choosing to be authorizers to prepare a substantial and thoughtful written application to the state Department of Education to be an authorizer that includes provisions detailing its capacity and commitment to being a charter school authorizer; its strategic vision for charter schools; its plan for soliciting applicants to govern charter schools; and its performance framework for contracting with, monitoring and evaluating performance of charter schools; and
WHEREAS, Act 2015-3 requires the format for the application to be a charter school authorizer to be made available to local school boards by June 1, 2015, and also requires school boards choosing to be charter school authorizers to issue requests for proposals for charter schools within 120 days of enactment or July 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education plans to adopt regulations to implement Act 2015-3 by June 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature wants to provide local school systems with the opportunity to thoroughly review and understand guidance from the State Board of Education regarding authorizing so that local school systems can use authorizing as a tool to improve public education; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature wants the Alabama Public Charter School Commission to thoughtfully develop its own rules for its role as an appellate body and high quality charter school authorizer without preventing local school systems from owning and operating their own authorizing process, should they choose to register as authorizers; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby urge local boards of education to elect to become charter school authorizers by September 1, 2015.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we urge the Alabama Public Charter School Commission to take sufficient time to
develop its rules before being required to hear appeals from applications denied at the local level.
HR 312 URGING LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ELECT TO
BECOME CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

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