

1 SJR68
2 109244-3
3 By Senators Smitherman, Figures, Coleman, Benefield, Barron,
4 Denton, Bedford, Little (T), Butler, Sanders, and Ross
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 10-MAR-09

1 SJR68

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4 ENROLLED, SJR68,

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ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND THE
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009, TO ALLOW
STATES TO ACCEPT UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS
UNCONDITIONALLY.

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
of 2009, provides "incentive payments" to states that agree to
amend their unemployment compensation laws to provide more
generous base-period calculations and agree to adopt less
restrictive grounds for disqualifications based on
availability of and applicants' search for work; and

WHEREAS, state leaders in all regions of our country
are concerned regarding the federal mandate to change state
unemployment compensation laws in order to receive these
benefits; each individual state is best able to ascertain the
appropriate method of administering its unemployment program;
and

WHEREAS, it is our understanding that the purpose of
the federal act is to jump start our economy; that being the
case, immediate and unconditional attention should be given to

1 unemployed American workers, who are among those hit hardest
2 by this financial crisis; and

3 WHEREAS, our residents are hardworking Americans who
4 have done nothing wrong; the current economic crisis is
5 national and international in scope and cannot be exclusively
6 solved at the state level; setting future benefit goals may be
7 a worthy ideal, but instant relief is now necessary and such
8 aid must be granted without qualifications; for the general
9 welfare of our state and its citizens, we strongly encourage
10 Congress to reconsider and rescind those portions of the
11 federal law that require changes in our state unemployment
12 compensation law in order to receive additional unemployment
13 compensation incentives; now therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the United States Congress is
16 respectfully requested to immediately amend the American
17 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to allow states to
18 accept unemployment compensation benefits unconditionally.
19 Provisions of the act that require states to make changes to
20 their laws concerning base-period calculations and less
21 restrictive grounds for disqualifications in order to receive
22 unemployment compensation incentive payments should be
23 repealed. Copies of this resolution shall be presented to the
24 President of the United States, the President of the United
25 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of

1 Representatives, and each member of the Alabama Congressional
2 Delegation so that each may know of the urgency of this matter
3 and the necessity for immediate action.