



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 718

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S STUDY GROUP ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY

WHEREAS the preservation of public safety is a fundamental duty of state government;

WHEREAS the fulfillment of that duty depends in no small part on sound sentencing policies and the operation of an effective system for confining and rehabilitating convicted criminals;

WHEREAS the Legislature has by law created a Department of Corrections "responsible for administering . . . penal and corrections institutions throughout the state," Ala. Code § 14-1-1.2;

WHEREAS my Administration inherited numerous longstanding and complex challenges related to prison conditions, including overcrowding and understaffing;

WHEREAS Alabama faces serious legal challenges related to these conditions even while my Administration has begun, in the words of a recent report by the United States Department of Justice, to make "positive changes";

WHEREAS these positive changes have included, among others, (1) the deployment of cutting-edge security techniques; (2) an expansion of inmate rehabilitation programs; and (3) reforms to improve the recruitment and retention of correctional and mental-health staff;

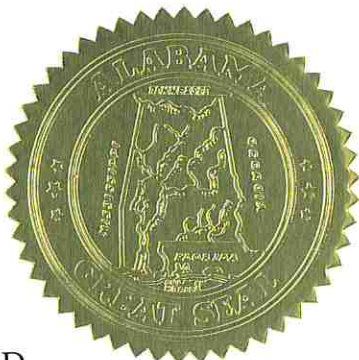
WHEREAS these recent positive changes would not have been possible without the support of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS success in finding an Alabama solution to our longstanding challenges requires continued collaboration between the executive and legislative branches of state government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby establish the Governor's Study Group on Criminal Justice Policy ("the Study Group") as further set forth below:

1. **Purpose.** The Study Group shall receive and analyze accurate data and evidence of best practices for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, and recommending evidenced-based reforms to further address the serious challenges confronting Alabama's prison system.
2. **Membership.** The Study Group shall consist of the following members or their designees: the Governor; the Attorney General; three members of the Alabama House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate; the Commissioner of Corrections; the Director of Finance; and additional individuals as the Governor deems necessary. The Governor (or the Governor's designee) shall serve as the chair, and the Governor's Office shall supply administrative support.
3. **Meetings.** The Study Group shall hold its first meeting at the call of the Governor on or before July 31, 2019. It shall meet periodically thereafter as determined necessary by the Chair.
4. **Compensation and Expenses.** The members of the Study Group shall serve without compensation except for travel reimbursement to be paid by the member's department or agency according to state law.
5. **State-agency cooperation.** State agencies and other state-funded entities shall cooperate with the Study Group and provide information requested by the Study Group.
6. **Duration.** The Study Group shall be dissolved effective the first legislative day of the Legislature's 2020 regular session.

DONE AND ORDERED this 17th day of July 2019.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey".

KAY IVEY
Governor

ATTESTED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Merrill".

JOHN H. MERRILL
Secretary of State