HJR54
135106-2
By Representatives Wren, Hubbard (M) and Hammon
RFD: Rules
First Read: 08-FEB-12
ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION
TRANSPARENCY ACT.

WHEREAS, the states should regulate their unique
markets - including insurance, health care, and financial
services industries - and jurisdiction-specific policies and
programs; and

WHEREAS, we believe in targeted state-based
modernization initiatives that aim to protect consumers and
streamline regulation; and

WHEREAS, we further believe that states have a
proven history of providing appropriate solutions to state or
local policy concerns and that such history precludes the need
for new federal preemption; and

WHEREAS, retirement security issues are important to
all Americans and to public officials at all levels of
government, and state and local governments have designed
unique retirement systems that represent the promise of future
benefits for their specific populations of public employees;
and

WHEREAS, public pension plans are continuously
evaluated at the state and local levels to protect the
retirement security of public employees and to ensure that
taxpayer dollars are allocated appropriately; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of
State Legislatures, 39 states enacted significant revisions to
their state retirement plans in 2010 or 2011, with reforms
addressing employee contributions, eligibility, calculation of
benefits, and cost-of-living adjustments, among other things;
and

WHEREAS, in addition to the efforts of state and
local government policymakers, the independent Government
Accounting Standards Board, in July 2011, exposed new draft
rules for state and local government pension plan accounting
and financial reporting; and

WHEREAS, despite state and local governmental
efforts to strengthen their individual public pension plans,
Members of Congress have considered legislation that would
insert the federal government into the administration of such
plans; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 567 and S. 347, the Public Employee
Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA), was introduced in the U.S.
House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate on February 9
and 15, 2011, respectively; and

WHEREAS, PEPTA would mandate that state and local
government pension plan sponsors make annual reports to the
U.S. Secretary of the Treasury related to funding status,
schedule of contributions, alternative projections and
assumptions, actuarial assumptions, plan participants,
investment returns, and outstanding pension obligation bonds,
among other things, and would dictate the form, timing, and
calculations used to submit such reports; and

WHEREAS, PEPTA would put the funding for state and
local government projects at risk by making continued tax
benefits for government bonds conditional upon compliance with
these new federally directed reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, at a time when many in Washington, D.C.,
are looking to reduce federal spending, PEPTA would needlessly
require the creation of a new U.S. Treasury Department
bureaucracy to handle state and local pension plan
information, including development and maintenance of a
searchable website to house such information; and

WHEREAS, PEPTA would also declare that the United
States would not bail out any state or local government
pension plan despite the fact that state and local governments
have not sought a federal bailout; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations representing state
and local governments and officials, including the National
Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of
Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League
of Cities, the National Association of State Auditors,
Comptrollers & Treasurers, the Government Finance Officers
Association, and the National Association of State Retirement
Administrators have cautioned that PEPTA would set a precedent
for federal intervention into areas that are the financial
responsibility of, and have thus been historically regulated
by, the state and local governmental entities; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby join state and local
government officials, and other public pension plan
stakeholders, in opposing H.R. 567 and S. 347, the Public
Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to
defer to the expertise and experience of state and local
government officials in managing their unique pension systems
and to, therefore, oppose H.R. 567 and S. 347.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
resolution be provided to all members of the Alabama
Congressional Delegation.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Kay Ivey

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was adopted by the House 14-FEB-12.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate 16-FEB-12 Adopted

APPROVED February 28, 2012

TIME 11:30 AM
Robert Bentley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State
Act Num....: 2012-41
Bill Num....: HJR-54

Recv'd 02/28/12 03:00pmSLF
REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE
This resolution having been referred by the House to its standing committee on RULES was acted upon by such committee in session, and returned therefrom to the House with the recommendation that it be adopted.

[Signature]
Chairman

This resolution was referred to the Standing Committee of the Senate on Rules and was acted upon by such committee in Session and by order of the committee returned therefrom with a Favorable report by a vote of Yea, V: V: Nays Abs. this No. day of April 20 15

[Signature]
Chairperson