

# Alabama State Report Card

Last Updated: January 2026

**Method and scoring:** State involuntary civil commitment laws are evaluated using a 100-point grading scale. The scoring criteria are in accordance with Treatment Advocacy Center’s values and policy preferences. Up to 50 points are awarded to a state based on the quality of its inpatient commitment law, and up to 50 points are awarded based on the state’s assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) law. Final letter grades are computed using the following scale:

|             |    |       |    |       |    |       |    |             |   |
|-------------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------------|---|
| 97 or above | A+ | 87–89 | B+ | 77–79 | C+ | 67–69 | D+ | 59 or below | F |
| 93–96       | A  | 83–86 | B  | 73–76 | C  | 63–66 | D  |             |   |
| 90–92       | A- | 80–82 | B- | 70–72 | C- | 60–62 | D- |             |   |

| PART ONE: Inpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points)                              |                             |  |        |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| Criterion   | Citation                    | Specifications   | Points |
| 1. Citizen access to court, emergency evaluation (5 pts)                              | Ala. Code § 22-52-91(a)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)  | 0      |
| 2. Quality of emergency petition process (5 pts)                                      | Ala. Code § 22-52-91        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process specified and reasonable (2 pts)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timelines specified and reasonable (2 pts)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible entities identified (1 pt)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Requires certification by more than one professional (-2 pts) <b>(See comment 1 below)</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency evaluation criteria inconsistent with inpatient commitment criteria (-5 pts) | 5      |
| 3. Emergency hold duration (5 pts)  | Ala. Code § 22-52-91(e)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 48-hour hold allowed (3 pts)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At least 72-hour hold allowed (2 pts)<br><b>Up to five business days</b>  | 5      |
| 4. Citizen access to court, inpatient petition (5 pts)                                | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.2(a)    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)  | 5      |
| 5. Quality of criteria for harm or violence to self or others (up to 10 pts)          | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.1(9)(a) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Harm must be imminent (-3 pts)  | 10     |
| 6. Quality of criteria for grave disability/basic needs (up to 10 pts)                | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.1(9)(b) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Endangerment must be imminent (-3 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Criteria require family to turn person out of home to receive treatment (-3 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonably high risk of harm (-3 pts)   | 10     |
| 7. Quality of criteria for psychiatric deterioration (up to 10 pts)                   | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.1(9)(b) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contains explicit criteria (10 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Language is vague/ambiguous (-3 pts)   | 10     |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>   |                             |  | 45     |
| PART ONE: Extra Credit  |                             |  |        |
| 1. Specifies in which court a petition for inpatient commitment shall be filed (1 pt) | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.2(a)    | <b>Probate court of the county where the proposed patient is located</b>   | 1      |
| Extra Credit  |                             |  | 1      |
| <b>PART ONE TOTAL</b>   |                             |  | 46     |

| PART TWO: Outpatient Commitment Statute (up to 50 points) |                          |   |        |
|---|--------------------------|---|--------|
| Criterion   | Citation                 | Specifications  | Points |
| 1. AOT explicitly authorized (5 pts)                      | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.2   | <input type="checkbox"/> Requires local government to adopt (-3 pts)  | 5      |
| 2. Citizen access to court for AOT (5 pts)                | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.2(a) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes family/enumerated adults (3 pts)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorizes any responsible adult (2 pts)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Authorizes citizen petition to mental health system only (-2 pts) | 5      |

|  |  |  |    |
|--|--|--|----|
| 3. Criteria sufficiently broad to provide actual access (up to 10 pts)       | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.2                           | <p><b>Evaluate applicable provision only:</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> If inpatient/outpatient criteria are the same: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient criteria include psychiatric deterioration standard (10 pts) <u>or</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No psychiatric deterioration standard, adequate grave disability standard (5 pts)</li> </ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If outpatient criteria are distinct from inpatient criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allows consideration of length of treatment history ≥ 36 months (2 pts)</li> </ul> <p><b>Two years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not exclude periods of incarceration or hospitalization (-1 pt)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those currently dangerous or unstable (4 pts)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not limit application to those refusing service or currently lacking insight (4 pts)</li> </ul> | 9  |
| 4. Authorizes AOT directly from community (5 pts)                            | Ala. Code § 22-52-1.2(a)                         |  | 5  |
| 5. Procedures sufficiently detailed to guide practitioners (up to 5 pts)     | Ala. Code §§ 22-52-10.2, 22-52-10.3, 22-52-10.10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process specified and reasonable (1 pt)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timelines specified and reasonable (1 pt)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible entities identified (1 pt)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Periodic reporting to court required (1 pt)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewal process expressly specified (1 pt)   | 4  |
| 6. Procedures require the treatment plan to be shared with the court (5 pts) | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.3                           | <b>(See comment 2 below)</b>   | 0  |
| 7. Specifies procedures and consequences for nonadherence (5 pts)            | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.3(e)-(f)                    |  | 5  |
| 8. Duration of initial order   | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.3(d)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> = 90 days (2 pts) <u>or</u><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 90 days (5 pts)<br><b>Not to exceed 150 days</b>   | 5  |
| 9. Duration of continued order   | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.3(d)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> = 180 days (2 pts) <u>or</u><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 180 days (5 pts)<br><b>Up to one year.</b>  | 5  |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  |  |  | 43 |
| <b>PART TWO: Extra Credit</b>  |  |  |    |
| 1. Specifies court for AOT (1 pt)  | Ala. Code § 22-52-10.2                           | <b>Probate court of the county where the proposed patient is located</b>   | 1  |
| 2. Court monitoring of voluntary settlement agreements (5 pts)               |  |  |    |
| Extra Credit   |  |  | 1  |
| <b>PART TWO TOTAL</b>  |  |  | 44 |

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>FINAL SCORE</b> |           |
| PART ONE TOTAL     | 46        |
| PART TWO TOTAL     | 44        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | 90        |
| <b>GRADE</b>       | <b>A-</b> |

**Comments:**

- The code requires for a police officer to have a community mental health officer respond to the location of the individual to assess the individual's condition. This requirement could encourage the "medicalization" (and thus decriminalization) of emergency evaluation and is not regarded as a dual certification although admissions staff will also assess the individual upon arrival to a designated mental health facility.
- Ala. Code § 22-52-10.3(c) provides the order of the court "...shall include the general condition that the respondent follow the directives and treatment plan established by the designated mental health facility," but does not explicitly require the plan be shared with the court.