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MEDIA ADVISORY

**CHAMBER TO SUPPORT JEFFERSON COUNTY MANAGER BILL
Executive Committee votes to add HB 376 to legislative agenda**

The Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee unanimously voted to add a bill that allows for the creation of a county manager position in Jefferson County to the group's state legislative agenda.

State Representative Paul DeMarco, R-Homewood, is sponsoring HB 376, a bill that would allow the commission to hire a county manager without going through the Jefferson County Personnel Board.

"Giving Jefferson County the authority to hire a county manager is a critical step in creating a more transparent, accountable and predictable county government," said Pascal Caputo, the Chamber's vice president of public policy. "In light of Jefferson County's importance to our region, I hope that our legislators in Montgomery will agree upon the need for improved county governance and will move expeditiously to pass Rep. DeMarco's county manager bill."

A county manager carries out the policies established by county commissioners to deliver public services, which gives the commission the opportunity to concentrate on creating a vision for the county's future, Caputo said. A county manager also brings technical knowledge, experience and academic training to public service.