

1 HB253  
2 172713-2  
3 By Representatives Nordgren, Shedd, Butler, Williams (JW),  
4 Sessions, Wilcox, Rich, Pettus, Whorton (R), South, Hanes,  
5 Wood, Tuggle, Millican, Johnson (R), Faust, Davis, Mooney and  
6 Greer  
7 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions  
8 First Read: 17-FEB-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama  
9 Commission on Tick Borne Illness.

10 This bill would provide for the membership  
11 and duties of the commission.

12 This bill would provide that the commission  
13 would coordinate research by colleges and  
14 universities on the prevention of tick borne  
15 illness in the state.

16 This bill would provide that the commission  
17 would allocate funds appropriated to it from the  
18 Education Trust Fund to colleges and universities  
19 conducting research and would authorize the  
20 commission to create criteria and a grant  
21 application process for the purpose of awarding  
22 funds.

23 This bill would authorize the commission to  
24 discontinue the allocation of funds to any college  
25 or university not performing adequate research.

1                   This bill would provide that the commission  
2                   would dissolve on September 30, 2021, unless  
3                   continued by act of the Legislature.

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5                   A BILL  
6                   TO BE ENTITLED  
7                   AN ACT

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9                   To create the Alabama Commission on Tick Borne  
10                  Illness; to provide for the membership and duties of the  
11                  commission; to provide that the commission would allocate  
12                  funds appropriated to it to certain colleges and universities  
13                  conducting research on tick borne illness; to authorize the  
14                  commission to create criteria and an application process to  
15                  allocate funds; and to provide that the commission would  
16                  dissolve on September 30, 2021, unless continued by act of the  
17                  Legislature.

18                 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

19                         Section 1. The Alabama Commission on Tick Borne  
20                         Illness is created in order to coordinate research on the  
21                         prevention of tick borne illness in the state.

22                         Section 2. The commission shall be composed of the  
23                         following members who shall serve at the pleasure of the  
24                         appointing authority:

25                                 (1) One member with knowledge of the study and  
26                                 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the Speaker of  
27                                 the House of Representatives.

1                   (2) One member with knowledge of the study and  
2 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the President  
3 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

4                   (3) One member with knowledge of the study and  
5 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the Governor.

6                   (4) One member with knowledge of the study and  
7 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the State Health  
8 Officer.

9                   (5) One member appointed by the Chair of the House  
10 Education, Finance, and Appropriations Committee.

11                   (6) One member appointed by Chair of the Finance and  
12 Taxation-Education Committee.

13                   Section 3. (a) The goal of the commission is to  
14 coordinate research and distribute funding for research on the  
15 study of tick borne illness in Alabama and to make suggestions  
16 for the treatment of and reduction and eradication of tick  
17 borne illness in the state. Research may include methods of  
18 prevention, treatment, surveillance, diagnosis, and  
19 intervention of tick borne illness.

20                   (b) Upon adjournment of the 2016 Regular Legislative  
21 Session, the commission shall schedule an initial meeting to  
22 organize and discuss a plan of action and create criteria and  
23 an application process for awarding research funds  
24 appropriated to the commission for such purposes, and the  
25 commission shall meet as necessary thereafter to achieve its  
26 goals.

1 (c) The commission shall report its findings and any  
2 proposed legislation to the Speaker of the House and President  
3 Pro Tempore of the Senate annually by the third day of the  
4 regular session of the Legislature.

5 (d) Upon request of the chair of the commission, the  
6 Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of  
7 Representatives shall provide necessary clerical assistance  
8 for the work of the commission.

9 (e) Each legislative member of the commission shall  
10 be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation,  
11 per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a  
12 meeting of the commission in accordance with Amendment 871 of  
13 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be  
14 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the  
15 Legislature.

16 Section 4. (a) The commission shall allocate funds  
17 for research on tick borne illness in the state based on  
18 appropriations received by the commission from the Education  
19 Trust Fund.

20 (b) The commission shall award appropriated funds  
21 annually through a grant application process. Only research  
22 universities and research facilities may apply for grant  
23 moneys.

24 (c) In order to receive the funds before the first  
25 day of the fiscal year, the college or university requesting  
26 or receiving money shall provide information regarding the  
27 method, scope, and significance of its research as a

1 prerequisite to receiving the funds. The commission may  
2 withdraw future funding from any university not performing  
3 adequate research in the opinion of the commission.

4 Section 5. The commission shall dissolve on  
5 September 30, 2021, unless continued by act of the  
6 Legislature.

7 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the  
8 first day of the third month following its passage and  
9 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.