

1 HB176
2 180883-1
3 By Representatives Sanderford, Sessions, Carns, Patterson,
4 Collins, Shiver, Chesteen, Hall, Rich, Whorton (R), Pettus,
5 Ledbetter, Farley, Butler and Daniels
6 RFD: Technology and Research
7 First Read: 09-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama Space
9 Authority within the Alabama Department of Economic
10 and Community Affairs (ADECA) to promote research
11 and development of new space exploration
12 technologies; sponsor conferences and business
13 roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and
14 related industries; and promote activities and
15 industries, including performing a feasibility
16 study on the securing of a license for and
17 development of a spaceport in Alabama. The
18 authority would include representatives of the
19 University of Alabama in Huntsville, the Alabama
20 Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department
21 of Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature,
22 and other individuals with knowledge and interest
23 in space technology.

24
25 A BILL
26 TO BE ENTITLED
27 AN ACT

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2 To create the Alabama Space Authority within the
3 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA),
4 to promote the research and development of new space
5 exploration and spaceport technologies; to sponsor conferences
6 and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and
7 related industries; and promote activities and industries
8 related to space exploration; to include representatives on
9 the authority of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the
10 Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department of
11 Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature, and other
12 individuals with knowledge and interest in space technology.
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama
15 Space Authority.

16 Section 2. The authority shall be composed of a
17 representative of the University of Alabama in Huntsville,
18 selected by the President of the University of Alabama in
19 Huntsville, the Director of the Auburn University Aviation
20 Center, the President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical
21 University, the Secretary of the Alabama Department of
22 Commerce, the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic
23 and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Director of the Department
24 of Transportation (ALDOT), and six other members to be
25 selected from the aerospace, aviation, and related industries,
26 or persons having knowledge or interest in space technology,
27 according to the following manner: One member appointed by the

1 Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, two
2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President
4 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

5 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an
6 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community
7 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support
8 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant
9 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the
10 authority.

11 Section 4. The authority shall have the following
12 duties:

13 (1) Encourage the education and training of
14 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and
15 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of
16 space.

17 (2) Promote new space exploration, space tourism,
18 and spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of
19 corporate, academic, public, and private innovation
20 infrastructures.

21 (3) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
22 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
23 and public officials.

24 (4) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
25 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
26 and expand space enterprise.

1 (5) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small
2 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to
3 stimulate economic development and innovation within the
4 aerospace and space systems communities.

5 (6) Promote adequate roads, communications, Internet
6 access, and leverage unique geographical assets such as
7 location, elevation, landforms, and climate to develop
8 terrestrial analog test facilities.

9 (7) Perform a study on the feasibility of securing
10 approval for the State of Alabama to have a federally licensed
11 spaceport.

12 (8) Identify, acquire, and manage the development of
13 public lands for space related activities including, if found
14 to be feasible, space launch.

15 (9) Encourage space research and education centers
16 to support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

17 (10) Work with the Department of Tourism, the
18 Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and other public
19 agencies to communicate the multiple scientific, educational,
20 and commercial benefits of space exploration and the legacy of
21 Alabama's contributions to America's space program to the
22 public and to promote space tourism and training.

23 Section 5. For the purpose of accomplishing the
24 duties enumerated in Section 4, the authority shall have the
25 following powers:

26 (1) To borrow money for its corporate purposes and,
27 in evidence of such borrowing, to sell and issue bonds of the

1 authority and to refund any thereof by the issuance of
2 refunding bonds, or other debt instruments.

3 (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other
4 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary
5 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the
6 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,
7 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such
8 property.

9 (3) To exercise the right allocated to the state to
10 acquire property used or useful for the purpose for which the
11 authority is formed as freely and completely as and in the
12 same manner that the State of Alabama is empowered to exercise
13 such rights.

14 (4) To lease all or any part of the facilities or
15 property of the authority to any person and, from time to
16 time, fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals under such
17 leases.

18 Section 6. Nothing in this act should be construed
19 to limit the ability of municipalities or counties from
20 developing aerospace infrastructure and capabilities.

21 Section 7. The enumeration of duties and powers
22 shall not be construed to give any other public or private
23 entity, department, or subdivision of the state, other than
24 the Alabama Space Authority, the right to exercise the
25 aforementioned powers.

26 Section 8. The authority may not be dissolved while
27 it still holds outstanding bonds or other unpaid indebtedness.

1 Section 9. Membership of the authority shall serve
2 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and
3 travel expenses at the same rate and under the same
4 circumstances as are payable by law to state employees for
5 each day they attend business of the authority.

6 Section 10. This act shall become effective
7 immediately following its passage and approval by the
8 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.