HB170

189609-2

By Representatives Baker, Collins and Nordgren

RFD: Economic Development and Tourism

First Read: 11-JAN-18
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama Workforce Council recommends policies and educational workforce programs in the state.

Also under existing law, regional workforce development councils develop regional strategic plans and workforce development systems to support local economic and job development activities.

This bill would add certain enumerated public officials and boards to the list of entities supported by the Alabama Workforce Council and would revise the membership of the Alabama Workforce Council.

This bill would also revise qualifications for members of the regional workforce development councils.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT
Relating to workforce development; to amend Sections 41-29-290, 41-29-291, and 41-29-300, Code of Alabama 1975; to add certain enumerated public officials and boards to the list of entities supported by the Alabama Workforce Council; to revise the membership of the Alabama Workforce Council; and to revise qualifications for members of the regional workforce development councils.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 41-29-290, 41-29-291, and 41-29-300, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§41-29-290.

"The Alabama Workforce Council is continued in existence as a part of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce. The council is responsible for advising and supporting the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the regional workforce development councils, the Alabama Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board, the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, the Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education, and the Council of College and University Presidents. The Alabama Workforce Council will serve as an advisory body in formulating policies, developing innovative educational workforce programming, and discussing issues critical to the workforce development needs in the State of Alabama. Furthermore, the council will promote, coordinate,
and collaborate across prekindergarten-12, two-year colleges, four-year universities, and business and industry.

"§41-29-291.

"(a) The Alabama Workforce Council shall consist of the following members: and shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic diversity of the state:

"(1) Two Fourteen members appointed by the Governor.

"(2) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

"(3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"(4) One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

"(5) One member from each of the regions that comprise the regional workforce development councils of Alabama appointed by the Governor.

"(6) The Deputy Secretary of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce shall be an ex officio member of the council, but shall have no voting rights.

"(7) The Vice Chancellor for Workforce and Economic Development of the Alabama Community College System shall be an ex officio member of the council, but shall have no voting rights.

"(8) The Deputy State Superintendent of Education, Career and Technical Education/Workforce
Development Division shall be an ex officio member of the
council, but shall have no voting rights.

"(8) The Executive Director of the Alabama
Commission on Higher Education shall be an ex officio member
of the council, but shall have no voting rights.

"(9) The Secretary of Labor or his or her designee
shall be an ex officio member of the council, but shall have
no voting rights.

"(10) The Chair of the Alabama Workforce Innovation
and Opportunity Act Board shall be an ex officio member of the
council, but shall have no voting rights.

"(11) The Executive Director of one of the regional
workforce development councils shall be an ex officio member
of the Alabama Workforce Council, but shall have no voting
rights. Each executive director shall serve on the Alabama
Workforce Council for a period of one year, rotating annually
in numerical order, beginning with Region 1. The term of the
executive director shall begin on July 1 and continue until
June 30 of the following year. The initial member shall be the
Executive Director of the Region 1 Workforce Development
Council whose term shall begin July 1, 2018.

"(9)(b) The Governor shall have the authority to may
appoint additional members to the council when necessary as
deemed appropriate, but at no time may the council be
comprised of more than 35 appointed members.

"(c) The council shall be business-driven and
business-led. The appointing authorities shall coordinate
their appointments to assure that at least 75 percent of the
ing voting council members are employed by business and industry,
that at least two individuals from each of the regions that
comprise the regional workforce development councils are
voting members, and that council membership is inclusive and
reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
economic diversity of the state.

"§41-29-300.

"(a) The Regional Workforce Development Councils are
herewith established as an appointed group of state business and
industry senior managers. The Regional Workforce Development
Councils shall be appointed from no less than six and no more
than 10 the seven regions. The Deputy Secretary of the
Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce
and the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System
shall jointly promulgate rules related to the establishment
and governance of these councils. The Deputy Secretary of the
Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce
shall follow the operating guidelines previously adopted by
the Workforce Development Division of the Alabama Community
College System (WDD/ACCS). The Regional Workforce Development
Councils shall provide a direct link to the workforce needs of
business and industry at the local level. The councils shall
be business-driven and business-led and work with their member
counties and shall develop a regional strategic plan and
comprehensive workforce development system that supports local
economic and job development activities. At least 75 percent
of the members of each regional council shall be employed by business and industry.

"(b) The Regional Workforce Development Councils shall make funding recommendations for grant applications submitted, based on the documented needs of the region as identified in their strategic plans.

"(c) Each council shall meet at least quarterly, but may meet more frequently upon the call of the chair. Members of each council may participate in a meeting of the council by means of conference telephone, video conference, or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting may hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting for all purposes, including the establishment of a quorum.

"(d) The objectives of the Regional Workforce Development Councils are to:

"(1) Promote a workforce development system in the region through the development of communication strategies among agencies and by advancing initiatives that support the efficient and effective use of resources.

"(2) Assess current and future workforce needs of employers in the region. Establish a strategic plan to meet capacity and skill development and training needs in the region and ensure that the investment of public workforce development funds are addressing priority needs in the region.
"(3) Partner with workforce development service providers, including the two-year colleges, or other workforce development regions in planning and developing actions to address specific workforce development priorities.

"(4) Serve as a co-applicant for workforce development funds requested through the WDD/ACCS.

"(5) Monitor effectiveness of state-funded and federally funded training projects in the region and the impact on overall workforce and economic development.

"(6) Assist in examining the service delivery structure and coordination among entities providing workforce development services in the region.

"(7) Expand the resource base available for workforce development in the region.

"(8) Coordinate planning with economic developers and elected officials to ensure that workforce development strategies support economic development goals in the region.

"(9) Serve as an advocate for high quality workforce development activities in the region.

"(10) Assist the WDD/ACCS in establishing practices that ensure high quality training and services are provided in the region. The Regional Workforce Development Councils will utilize the WDD/ACCS as the provider of high quality training and services, unless otherwise restricted by law, rule, or regulation."
Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.