

1 HB170  
2 189609-2  
3 By Representatives Baker, Collins and Nordgren  
4 RFD: Economic Development and Tourism  
5 First Read: 11-JAN-18

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Alabama Workforce  
9 Council recommends policies and educational  
10 workforce programs in the state.

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

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

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

23  
24 A BILL  
25 TO BE ENTITLED  
26 AN ACT  
27

1                   Relating to workforce development; to amend Sections  
2                   41-29-290, 41-29-291, and 41-29-300, Code of Alabama 1975; to  
3                   add certain enumerated public officials and boards to the list  
4                   of entities supported by the Alabama Workforce Council; to  
5                   revise the membership of the Alabama Workforce Council; and to  
6                   revise qualifications for members of the regional workforce  
7                   development councils.

8                   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

9                   Section 1. Sections 41-29-290, 41-29-291, and  
10                  41-29-300, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as  
11                  follows:

12                  "§41-29-290.

13                  "The Alabama Workforce Council is continued in  
14                  existence as a part of the Workforce Development Division of  
15                  the Department of Commerce. The council is responsible for  
16                  advising and supporting the Governor, the Secretary of  
17                  Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the regional workforce  
18                  development councils, the Alabama Workforce Innovation and  
19                  Opportunity Act Board, the Chancellor of the Alabama Community  
20                  College System, the Superintendent of the Alabama Department  
21                  of Education, and the Council of College and University  
22                  Presidents. The Alabama Workforce Council will serve as an  
23                  advisory body in formulating policies, developing innovative  
24                  educational workforce programming, and discussing issues  
25                  critical to the workforce development needs in the State of  
26                  Alabama. Furthermore, the council will promote, coordinate,

1 and collaborate across prekindergarten-12, two-year colleges,  
2 four-year universities, and business and industry.

3 "§41-29-291.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 "~~(6)~~ (5) The Deputy Secretary of the Workforce  
19 Development Division of the Department of Commerce shall be an  
20 ex officio member of the council, but shall have no voting  
21 rights.

22 "~~(7)~~ (6) The Vice Chancellor for Workforce and  
23 Economic Development of the Alabama Community College System  
24 shall be an ex officio member of the council, but shall have  
25 no voting rights.

26 "~~(8)~~ (7) The Deputy State Superintendent of  
27 Education, Career and Technical Education/Workforce

1 Development Division shall be an ex officio member of the  
2 council, but shall have no voting rights.

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

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

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

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

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

26 "(c) The council shall be business-driven and  
27 business-led. The appointing authorities shall coordinate

1 their appointments to assure that at least 75 percent of the  
2 voting council members are employed by business and industry,  
3 that at least two individuals from each of the regions that  
4 comprise the regional workforce development councils are  
5 voting members, and that council membership is inclusive and  
6 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and  
7 economic diversity of the state.

8 "§41-29-300.

9 "(a) The Regional Workforce Development Councils are  
10 hereby established as an appointed group of state business and  
11 industry senior managers. The Regional Workforce Development  
12 Councils shall be appointed from ~~no less than six and no more~~  
13 ~~than 10~~ the seven regions. The Deputy Secretary of the  
14 Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce  
15 and the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System  
16 shall jointly promulgate rules related to the establishment  
17 and governance of these councils. The Deputy Secretary of the  
18 Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce  
19 shall follow the operating guidelines previously adopted by  
20 the Workforce Development Division of the Alabama Community  
21 College System (WDD/ACCS). The Regional Workforce Development  
22 Councils shall provide a direct link to the workforce needs of  
23 business and industry at the local level. The councils shall  
24 be business-driven and business-led and work with their member  
25 counties and shall develop a regional strategic plan and  
26 comprehensive workforce development system that supports local  
27 economic and job development activities. At least 75 percent

1 of the members of each regional council shall be employed by  
2 business and industry.

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

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

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

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

22 "(2) Assess current and future workforce needs of  
23 employers in the region. Establish a strategic plan to meet  
24 capacity and skill development and training needs in the  
25 region and ensure that the investment of public workforce  
26 development funds are addressing priority needs in the region.

1           "(3) Partner with workforce development service  
2 providers, including the two-year colleges, or other workforce  
3 development regions in planning and developing actions to  
4 address specific workforce development priorities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20          "(10) Assist the WDD/ACCS in establishing practices  
21 that ensure high quality training and services are provided in  
22 the region. The Regional Workforce Development Councils will  
23 utilize the WDD/ACCS as the provider of high quality training  
24 and services, unless otherwise restricted by law, rule, or  
25 regulation."



1                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.