

1 HB349  
2 108127-1  
3 By Representatives Scott, Robinson (O) and Rogers  
4 RFD: Boards and Commissions  
5 First Read: 19-JAN-10

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law authorizes the creation of the  
9 Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama Rapid Rail Transit  
10 Commission.

11 This bill would change the name of the  
12 commission to the Southern High-Speed Rail  
13 Commission.

14  
15 A BILL  
16 TO BE ENTITLED  
17 AN ACT

18  
19 To amend Section 37-11-1, Code of Alabama 1975,  
20 relating to the Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama Rapid Rail  
21 Transit Commission; to change the name of the commission to  
22 the Southern High-Speed Rail Commission.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 37-11-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 "§37-11-1.

1           "The Governor, on behalf of this state, is hereby  
2 authorized to execute a compact in substantially the following  
3 form with the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, and the  
4 legislature hereby signifies in advance its approval and  
5 ratification of such compact, which compact is as follows:

6           "Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama Rapid Rail Transit  
7 Compact.

8           "Article I.

9           "The purpose of this compact is to study the  
10 feasibility of rapid rail transit service between the states  
11 of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama and to establish a joint  
12 interstate commission to assist in this effort.

13          "Article II.

14          "This compact shall become effective immediately as  
15 to the states ratifying it whenever the states of Mississippi,  
16 Louisiana and Alabama have ratified it and Congress has given  
17 consent thereto. Any state not mentioned in this article which  
18 is contiguous with any member state may become a party to this  
19 compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the  
20 member states.

21          "Article III.

22          "The states which are parties to this compact  
23 (hereinafter referred to as "party states") do hereby  
24 establish and create a joint agency which shall be known as  
25 the ~~Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama Rapid~~ Southern High-Speed  
26 Rail ~~Transit~~ Commission (hereinafter referred to as the  
27 "commission"), or any successor name adopted by all members of

1 the commission. The membership of such commission shall  
2 consist of the governor of each party state, one  
3 representative each from the Mississippi Energy and  
4 Transportation Board, or its successor, the Office of Aviation  
5 and Public Transportation of the Louisiana Department of  
6 Transportation and Development, or its successor, and the  
7 Alabama Department of Energy, or its successor, five other  
8 citizens of each party state, to be appointed by the Governor  
9 thereof. The appointive members of the commission shall serve  
10 for terms of four years each. Vacancies on the commission  
11 shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the  
12 unexpired portion of the term. The members of the commission  
13 shall not be compensated for service on the commission, but  
14 each of the appointed members shall be entitled to actual and  
15 reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings, or  
16 incurred otherwise in the performance of his duties as a  
17 member of the commission. The members of the commission shall  
18 hold regular quarterly meetings and such special meetings as  
19 its business may require. They shall choose annually a  
20 chairman and vice chairman from among their members, and the  
21 chairmanship shall rotate each year among the party states in  
22 order of their acceptance of this compact. The commission  
23 shall adopt rules and regulations for the transaction of its  
24 business and a record shall be kept of all its business. It  
25 shall be the duty of the commission to study the feasibility  
26 of providing interstate rapid rail transit service between the  
27 party states. Toward this end, the commission shall have power

1 to hold hearings; to conduct studies and surveys of all  
2 problems, benefits and other matters associated with such  
3 service, and to make reports thereon; to acquire, by gift,  
4 grant or otherwise, from local, state, federal or private  
5 sources such money or property as may be provided for the  
6 proper performance of their function, and to hold and dispose  
7 of same; to cooperate with other public or private groups,  
8 whether local, state, regional or national, having an interest  
9 in such service; to formulate and execute plans and policies  
10 for emphasizing the purpose of this compact before the  
11 Congress of the United States and other appropriate officers  
12 and agencies of the United States; and to exercise such other  
13 powers as may be appropriate to enable it to accomplish its  
14 functions and duties and to carry out the purposes of this  
15 compact.

16 "Article IV.

17 "Each party state agrees that its legislature may,  
18 in its discretion, from time to time make available and pay  
19 over to the commission funds for the establishment and  
20 operation of the commission. The contribution of each party  
21 state shall be in equal amounts, if possible, but nothing in  
22 this article shall be construed as binding the legislature of  
23 either state to make an appropriation of a set amount of funds  
24 at any particular time.

25 "Article V.

26 "Nothing in this compact shall be construed so as to  
27 conflict with any existing statute, or to limit the powers of

1 any party state, or to repeal or prevent legislation, or to  
2 affect any existing or future cooperative arrangement or  
3 relationship between any federal agency and a party state.

4 "Article VI.

5 "(1) This compact shall continue in force and remain  
6 binding upon each party state until the legislature or  
7 Governor of each or any state takes action to withdraw  
8 therefrom. However, any such withdrawal shall not become  
9 effective until six months after the date of the action taken  
10 by the legislature or Governor. Notice of such action shall be  
11 given to the other party state or states by the Secretary of  
12 State of the party state which takes such action.

13 "(2) There is hereby granted to the Governor, to the  
14 members of the commission for Mississippi, Louisiana, and  
15 Alabama, and to the compact administrator all the powers  
16 provided for in the compact and in this section. All officers  
17 of the State of Alabama are hereby authorized and directed to  
18 do all things falling within their respective jurisdictions  
19 which are necessary or incidental to carrying out the purpose  
20 of the compact."

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