- 1 HB518
- 2 128683-4
- 3 By Representative Johnson (R)
- 4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business
- 5 First Read: 14-APR-11

1	ENGROSSED
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4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
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8	To amend Section 8-29-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
9	relating to prompt payment of construction contracts for
10	improvements to real property, to define retainage and to
11	provide for retainage in construction contracts covered by the
12	prompt pay act.
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
14	Section 1. Section 8-29-3 of the Code of Alabama
15	1975, is amended to read as follows:
16	"§8-29-3.
17	"(a) When a contractor has performed pursuant to his
18	or her contract and submits an application or pay request for
19	payment or an invoice for materials, to the owner or owner's
20	representative, the owner shall timely pay the contractor by
21	mailing via first class mail or delivering the amount of the
22	pay request or invoice in accordance with the payment terms
23	agreed to by the owner and the contractor, the agreed upon
24	payment terms must be specified in all contract documents, but
25	if payment terms are not agreed to, then within 30 days after
26	receipt of the pay request or invoice.

1 "(b) When a subcontractor has performed pursuant to 2 his or her contract and submits an application or pay request for payment or an invoice for materials to a contractor in 3 4 sufficient time to allow the contractor to include the application, request, or invoice in his or her own pay request 5 6 submitted to an owner, the contractor shall timely pay to the 7 subcontractor in accordance with the payment terms agreed to by the contractor and subcontractor, but if payment terms are 8 9 not agreed to, then within seven days of receipt of payment 10 from owner by mailing via first class mail or delivering the amount received for the subcontractor's work and materials 11 12 based on work properly completed or service properly provided under the contract. 13

14 "(c) When a sub-subcontractor has performed labor or 15 supplied materials for a subcontractor pursuant to his or her contract and submits an application or pay request for payment 16 17 or an invoice for materials to a subcontractor in sufficient time to allow the subcontractor to include the application, 18 request, or invoice in his or her own pay request submitted to 19 20 a contractor, the subcontractor shall timely pay the 21 sub-subcontractor in accordance with the payment terms agreed 22 to by the subcontractor and sub-subcontractor but if payment 23 terms are not agreed to, then within seven days of receipt of payment from contractor by mailing via first class mail or 24 delivering the amount received for the sub-subcontractor's 25 26 work properly and materials based on work completed or service 27 properly provided under the contract.

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1 "(d) If the owner, contractor, or subcontractor does 2 not make payment in compliance with this chapter, the owner, 3 contractor, or subcontractor shall be obligated to pay his or 4 her contractor, subcontractor, or sub-subcontractor interest 5 at the rate of one percent per month (12% per annum) on the 6 unpaid balance due.

7 "(e) A contractor who receives a payment under subsection (a) or otherwise, from an owner in connection with 8 a contract shall pay each of its subcontractors the portion of 9 the owner's payment to the extent of that subcontractor's 10 interest in the owner's payment. The payment shall include 11 12 interest, if any, that is attributable to work properly 13 performed or materials suitably stored by that subcontractor 14 if payment for stored materials is provided for in the contract. The payment required by this subsection shall be 15 16 made not later than the seventh day after the date the 17 contractor receives the owner's payment.

18 "(f) The percentage of retainage on payments by the contractor to the subcontractor shall not exceed the 19 20 percentage of retainage on payments made by the owner to the 21 contractor. Any percentage of retainage on payments made by 22 contractor to the subcontractor that exceeds the percentage of 23 retainage on payments made by the owner to the contractor 24 shall be subject to interest to be paid by the contractor to 25 the subcontractor at the rate of one percent per month (12% 26 per annum).

1	"(g) The percentage of retainage on payments by the
2	subcontractor to the sub-subcontractor shall not exceed the
3	percentage of retainage on payments made by the contractor to
4	the subcontractor. Retainage on payments made by the
5	subcontractor to the sub-subcontractor that exceeds the
6	percentage of retainage on payments made by the contractor to
7	the subcontractor shall be subject to interest paid at the
8	rate of one percent per month (12% per annum).
9	" (f) (h) For the purposes of this chapter, retainage
10	means that money, or other security as agreed to by the
11	parties to a construction contract, earned by the contractor,
12	subcontractor or lower tier sub-subcontractor, or supplier for
13	work properly performed or materials suitably stored, if
14	payment for stored materials is provided for in the contract,
15	which has been retained by the owner conditioned on final
16	completion and acceptance of all work in connection with a
17	project or projects by the contractor, subcontractor or lower
18	<u>tier sub-subcontractor, or supplier.</u>
19	" (g) <u>(i) A construction contract on any project in</u>
20	this state may provide for the owner's withholding of
21	retainage from payments to its contractor for work performed
22	by that contractor on a construction project. There shall be
23	retained not more than five ten percent of the estimated
24	amount of work properly done and the value of materials stored
25	on the site or suitably stored and insured off-site, and after
26	50 percent completion has been accomplished, no further
27	retainage shall be withheld. If an owner withholds an amount

1	greater than that allowed by this subsection, the owner shall
2	be liable to the contractor for interest accruing on the
3	excess amount withheld at the rate of one percent per month.
4	" (h) <u>(j) A construction contract on any project in</u>
5	this state may provide for the contractor's withholding of
6	retainage from payments to its subcontractors for work
7	performed by the subcontractors on a construction project.
8	There shall be retained not more than five ten percent of the
9	estimated amount of work properly done and the value of
10	materials stored on the site or suitably stored and insured
11	off-site, and after 50 percent completion has been
12	accomplished, no further retainage shall be withheld. If a
13	contractor withholds an amount greater than that allowed by
14	this subsection, the contractor shall be liable to the
15	subcontractor for interest accruing on the excess amount
16	withheld at the rate of one percent per month.
17	" (i)<u>(</u>k) A construction contract on any project in
18	this state may provide for the subcontractor's withholding of
19	retainage from payments to its sub-subcontractors or material
20	suppliers for work performed by such sub-subcontractors or
21	material suppliers on a construction project. There shall be
22	retained not more than five ten percent of the estimated
23	amount of work properly done and the value of materials stored
24	on the site or suitably stored and insured off-site, and after
25	50 percent completion has been accomplished, no further
26	retainage shall be withheld. If a subcontractor withholds an
27	amount greater than that allowed by this subsection, the

1	subcontractor shall be liable to the sub-subcontractor or
2	material supplier for interest accruing on the excess amount
3	withheld at the rate of one percent per month.
4	" (j) <u>(l)(1)</u> The owner shall release and pay
5	retainage to the contractor for work completed on any
6	construction contract no later than 60 days after the
7	completion of the contractor's work defined in its contract
8	with the owner, or no later than 60 days of after substantial
9	completion of the project, whichever occurs first, and in both
10	events, with all necessary certificates of occupancy having
11	been issued. The contractor shall release and pay retainage to
12	its subcontractors for work completed pursuant to the terms of
13	this chapter.
14	"(2) For the purposes of this subsection,
15	substantial completion means the stage in the progress of the
16	project when the project or designated portion thereof is
17	sufficiently complete in accordance with the contract
18	documents with all necessary certificates of occupancy having
19	been issued so that the owner may occupy or utilize the
20	project for its intended purpose.
21	" (k) <u>(</u> m) The provisions of subsections (f) through
22	(j) shall not apply to any electric utility project
23	construction project for or by an electric utility regulated
24	by the Public Service Commission."
25	<u>"(1)</u> "(n) Nothing herein limits or alters the paying
26	party's right to withhold or not approve payment on grounds
27	set forth in the party's contract or the grounds set forth in

Section 8-29-4 or otherwise for work not properly performed or 1 payment not earned; rather, this section is intended only to 2 3 establish a maximum amount of retainage, establish the timing for release of retainage, and provide for the payment of 4 interest for improperly held retainage. Also, the paying party 5 may condition payment on the receipt of a full release of any 6 7 lien of the contractor, subcontractor, or sub-subcontractor for the amount of work being paid. 8

9 <u>"(m)(o) All loans and loan proceeds related to a</u> 10 <u>construction project, and the disbursement and use thereof,</u> 11 <u>are governed solely by the terms of the documents evidencing</u> 12 <u>and securing the loan, and contractors, subcontractors, and</u> 13 <u>sub-subcontractors have no lien or rights in any such loan,</u> 14 <u>loan proceeds, or the disbursement or use thereof."</u>

Section 2. <u>The provisions of this amendatory act</u>
 <u>shall apply only to contracts entered into on or after the</u>
 <u>effective date of this act.</u>

Section 3. All laws or parts of laws which conflict
with this act are repealed.

20 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the 21 first day of the third month following its passage and 22 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	House of Representatives	
4 5 6 7	Read for the first time and re- ferred to the House of Representa- tives committee on Commerce and Small Business	14-APR-11
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9 10	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 2 amendments	21-APR-11
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12 13	Read for the third time and passed as amended	24-MAY-11
14	Yeas 97, Nays 0, Abstains O	

Greg Pappas Clerk