

1 SB142  
2 156562-3  
3 By Senator Dial  
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

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11 To create the Alabama Space Authority within the  
12 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA),  
13 to promote the research and development of new space  
14 exploration and spaceport technologies, sponsor conferences  
15 and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and  
16 related industries, and promote activities and industries  
17 related to space exploration and the maximum use of space  
18 capabilities; to include representatives on the authority of  
19 the Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department  
20 of Transportation, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the  
21 Legislature, and other individuals with knowledge and interest  
22 in space technology.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama  
25 Space Authority.

26 Section 2. The authority shall be composed of the  
27 Director of the Alabama Department of Commerce, the Director

1 of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
2 (ADECA), the Director of the Department of Transportation  
3 (ALDOT), the Lieutenant Governor, and six other members to be  
4 selected from the aerospace, aviation, related industries, or  
5 persons having knowledge or interest in space technology,  
6 according to the following manner: One member appointed by the  
7 Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, two  
8 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President  
10 Pro Tempore of the Senate. The four legislative members  
11 appointed by the Speaker and Pro Tem shall be two members from  
12 the democratic party and two members from the GOP appointed.  
13 All appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments  
14 so that diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is  
15 reflective of the makeup of this state. In addition, the dean  
16 of engineering, or his or her designee, from each Alabama  
17 university that offers an aerospace engineering degree program  
18 shall serve.

19 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an  
20 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community  
21 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support  
22 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant  
23 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the  
24 authority.

25 Section 4. The authority shall have the following  
26 duties:

1           (1) To develop either as a state facility, a private  
2 facility, or a public-private facility within the State of  
3 Alabama a spaceport.

4           (2) To lease or rent a spaceport facility consistent  
5 with the best interest of the state.

6           (3) Encourage the education and training of  
7 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and  
8 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of  
9 space.

10          (4) Promote new space exploration and the maximum  
11 use of space capabilities, space tourism, and spaceport  
12 technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate, academic,  
13 public, and private innovation infrastructures.

14          (5) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business  
15 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders  
16 and public officials.

17          (6) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and  
18 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship  
19 and expand space enterprise.

20          (7) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small  
21 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to  
22 stimulate economic development and innovation within the  
23 aerospace and space systems communities.

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

1           (9) Identify, acquire, and manage the development of  
2 public lands for space launch and other space-related  
3 activities, and encourage space research and education centers  
4 to support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

5           (10) Work with the Department of Tourism, the  
6 Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and other public  
7 agencies to communicate the multiple scientific, educational,  
8 and commercial benefits of space exploration to the public and  
9 to promote space tourism and training.

10           Section 5. For the purpose of accomplishing the  
11 duties enumerated in Section 4, the authority shall have the  
12 following powers:

13           (1) To borrow money for its corporate purposes and,  
14 in evidence of such borrowing, to sell and issue bonds of the  
15 authority and to refund any thereof by the issuance of  
16 refunding bonds, or other debt instruments.

17           (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other  
18 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary  
19 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the  
20 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,  
21 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such  
22 property.

23           (3) To exercise the right allocated to the state to  
24 acquire property used or useful for the purpose for which the  
25 authority is formed as freely and completely as and in the  
26 same manner that the State of Alabama is empowered to exercise  
27 such rights.

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

5           Section 6. The enumeration of duties and powers  
6 shall not be construed to give any other public or private  
7 entity, department, or subdivision of the state, other than  
8 the Alabama Space Authority, the right to exercise the  
9 aforementioned powers.

10          Section 7. The authority may not be dissolved while  
11 it still holds outstanding bonds or other unpaid indebtedness.

12          Section 8. Membership of the authority shall serve  
13 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and  
14 travel expenses at the same rate and under the same  
15 circumstances as are payable by law to state employees for  
16 each day they attend business of the authority.

17          Section 9. The authority membership shall reflect  
18 the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic  
19 diversity of the state.

20          Section 10. This act shall become effective  
21 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
22 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Governmental Affairs..... 14-JAN-14

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar 1 amendment..... 21-JAN-14

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 18-MAR-14

Yeas 28  
Nays 0

Patrick Harris  
Secretary