

1 SB17
2 164382-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15
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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama Space
9 Authority within the Alabama Department of Economic
10 and Community Affairs (ADECA) to promote the
11 research and development of new space exploration
12 and spaceport technologies, sponsor conferences,
13 and business roundtables, within the aerospace,
14 aviation, and related industries, and promote
15 activities and industries related to space
16 exploration, including the securing of a license
17 for and development of a spaceport in Alabama. The
18 authority would include representatives of the
19 Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama
20 Department of Transportation, the Governor, the
21 Legislature, and other individuals with knowledge
22 and interest in space technology.

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

1 To create the Alabama Space Authority within the
2 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA),
3 to promote the research and development of new space
4 exploration and spaceport technologies, sponsor conferences
5 and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and
6 related industries, and promote activities and industries
7 related to space exploration; to include representatives on
8 the authority of the Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA,
9 Alabama Department of Transportation, the Governor, the
10 Legislature, and other individuals with knowledge and interest
11 in space technology.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama
14 Space Authority.

15 Section 2. The authority shall be composed of the
16 Director of the Alabama Department of Commerce, the Director
17 of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
18 (ADECA), the Director of the Department of Transportation
19 (ALDOT), and six other members to be selected from the
20 aerospace, aviation, related industries, or persons having
21 knowledge or interest in space technology, according to the
22 following manner: One member appointed by the Governor, one
23 member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, two members
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
25 two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
26 Senate.

1 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an
2 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community
3 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support
4 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant
5 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the
6 authority.

7 Section 4. The authority shall have the following
8 duties:

9 (1) To secure approval for the State of Alabama to
10 have a federally licensed spaceport.

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

14 (3) To lease or rent a spaceport facility consistent
15 with the best interest of the state.

16 (4) Encourage the education and training of
17 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and
18 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of
19 space.

20 (5) Promote new space exploration, space tourism,
21 and spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of
22 corporate, academic, public, and private innovation
23 infrastructures.

24 (6) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
25 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
26 and public officials.

1 (7) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
2 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
3 and expand space enterprise.

4 (8) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small
5 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to
6 stimulate economic development and innovation within the
7 aerospace and space systems communities.

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

12 (10) Identify, acquire, and manage the development
13 of public lands for space launch and other space-related
14 activities, and encourage space research and education centers
15 to support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

16 (11) Work with the Department of Tourism, the
17 Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and other public
18 agencies to communicate the multiple scientific, educational,
19 and commercial benefits of space exploration to the public and
20 to promote space tourism and training.

21 Section 5. For the purpose of accomplishing the
22 duties enumerated in Section 4, the authority shall have the
23 following powers:

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

1 (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other
2 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary
3 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the
4 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,
5 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such
6 property.

7 (3) To exercise the right allocated to the state to
8 acquire property used or useful for the purpose for which the
9 authority is formed as freely and completely as and in the
10 same manner that the State of Alabama is empowered to exercise
11 such rights.

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

16 Section 6. The enumeration of duties and powers
17 shall not be construed to give any other public or private
18 entity, department, or subdivision of the state, other than
19 the Alabama Space Authority, the right to exercise the
20 aforementioned powers.

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

23 Section 8. Membership of the authority shall serve
24 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and
25 travel expenses at the same rate and under the same
26 circumstances as are payable by law to state employees for
27 each day they attend business of the authority.

1 Section 9. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.