

1 HB349
2 119600-2
3 By Representatives Scott, Robinson (O) and Rogers
4 RFD: Boards and Commissions
5 First Read: 19-JAN-10

1 of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama and to establish a joint
2 interstate commission to assist in this effort.

3 "Article II.

4 "This compact shall become effective immediately as
5 to the states ratifying it whenever the states of Mississippi,
6 Louisiana and Alabama have ratified it and Congress has given
7 consent thereto. Any state not mentioned in this article which
8 is contiguous with any member state may become a party to this
9 compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the
10 member states.

11 "Article III.

12 "The states which are parties to this compact
13 (hereinafter referred to as "party states") do hereby
14 establish and create a joint agency which shall be known as
15 the ~~Mississippi-Louisiana-Alabama Rapid~~ Southern High-Speed
16 ~~Rail Transit~~ Commission (hereinafter referred to as the
17 "commission"), or any successor name adopted by all members of
18 the commission. The membership of such commission shall
19 consist of the governor of each party state, one
20 representative each from the Mississippi Energy and
21 Transportation Board, or its successor, the Office of Aviation
22 and Public Transportation of the Louisiana Department of
23 Transportation and Development, or its successor, and the
24 Alabama Department of Energy, or its successor, five other
25 citizens of each party state, to be appointed by the Governor
26 thereof. The appointive members of the commission shall serve

1 for terms of four years each. Vacancies on the commission
2 shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the
3 unexpired portion of the term. The members of the commission
4 shall not be compensated for service on the commission, but
5 each of the appointed members shall be entitled to actual and
6 reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings, or
7 incurred otherwise in the performance of his duties as a
8 member of the commission. The members of the commission shall
9 hold regular quarterly meetings and such special meetings as
10 its business may require. They shall choose annually a
11 chairman and vice chairman from among their members, and the
12 chairmanship shall rotate each year among the party states in
13 order of their acceptance of this compact. The commission
14 shall adopt rules and regulations for the transaction of its
15 business and a record shall be kept of all its business. It
16 shall be the duty of the commission to study the feasibility
17 of providing interstate rapid rail transit service between the
18 party states. Toward this end, the commission shall have power
19 to hold hearings; to conduct studies and surveys of all
20 problems, benefits and other matters associated with such
21 service, and to make reports thereon; to acquire, by gift,
22 grant or otherwise, from local, state, federal or private
23 sources such money or property as may be provided for the
24 proper performance of their function, and to hold and dispose
25 of same; to cooperate with other public or private groups,
26 whether local, state, regional or national, having an interest

1 in such service; to formulate and execute plans and policies
2 for emphasizing the purpose of this compact before the
3 Congress of the United States and other appropriate officers
4 and agencies of the United States; and to exercise such other
5 powers as may be appropriate to enable it to accomplish its
6 functions and duties and to carry out the purposes of this
7 compact.

8 "Article IV.

9 "Each party state agrees that its legislature may,
10 in its discretion, from time to time make available and pay
11 over to the commission funds for the establishment and
12 operation of the commission. The contribution of each party
13 state shall be in equal amounts, if possible, but nothing in
14 this article shall be construed as binding the legislature of
15 either state to make an appropriation of a set amount of funds
16 at any particular time.

17 "Article V.

18 "Nothing in this compact shall be construed so as to
19 conflict with any existing statute, or to limit the powers of
20 any party state, or to repeal or prevent legislation, or to
21 affect any existing or future cooperative arrangement or
22 relationship between any federal agency and a party state.

23 "Article VI.

24 "(1) This compact shall continue in force and remain
25 binding upon each party state until the legislature or
26 Governor of each or any state takes action to withdraw

1 therefrom. However, any such withdrawal shall not become
2 effective until six months after the date of the action taken
3 by the legislature or Governor. Notice of such action shall be
4 given to the other party state or states by the Secretary of
5 State of the party state which takes such action.

6 "(2) There is hereby granted to the Governor, to the
7 members of the commission for Mississippi, Louisiana, and
8 Alabama, and to the compact administrator all the powers
9 provided for in the compact and in this section. All officers
10 of the State of Alabama are hereby authorized and directed to
11 do all things falling within their respective jurisdictions
12 which are necessary or incidental to carrying out the purpose
13 of the compact."

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

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-
ferred to the House of Representa-
tives committee on Boards and Com-
missions 19-JAN-10

Read for the second time and placed
on the calendar with 1 substitute
and 03-MAR-10

Read for the third time and passed
as amended 25-MAR-10

Yeas 98, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Greg Pappas
Clerk