- 1 HB70
- 2 105732-1
- 3 By Representatives Ward and McCutcheon
- 4 RFD: Government Operations
- 5 First Read: 12-JAN-10
- 6 PFD: 01/06/2010

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8 SYNOPSIS:

This bill establishes the Alabama Transportation Commission and provides for the members, the manner of selection of members, terms, qualifications, duties, responsibilities, compensation, and expenses of the commission. This bill would further provide for: the salary, appointment, qualifications, and authority of the Director of the Department of Transportation; the approval of the director's appointment of a chief engineer; the department's legal division functions and duties; the records maintained by the department; the seals and the power to administer oaths; roads located on state institutions; the procurement of equipment; the director's authority to execute contracts and supplemental contracts for road and bridge construction, maintenance, and repair; and a requirement that the newly created Alabama Transportation Commission approve the letting of contracts for the construction, repair, or renewals of highways, bridges, or culverts in

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the state. The bill would also prohibit members of the Alabama Transportation Commission from having an interest in any contract for the construction, repair, or maintenance of any road or bridge in this state and would further provide for the promulgation of department rules and the receipt and disbursal of department funds. This bill would amend Section 23-1-249, Code of Alabama 1975, to delete the authority of the director regarding the promulgation of rules and regulations for junkyard control and Section 23-1-286, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the authority currently exercised by the director regarding the promulgation of outdoor advertising rules would be exercised by the commission. This bill would also repeal Section 23-1-41, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding self-insurance for department employees, and Section 23-1-63, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the limitation of obligations on the inauguration date of the incoming Governor.

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22 A BILL

23 TO BE ENTITLED

24 AN ACT

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To establish the Alabama Transportation Commission and provide for the members, the manner of selection of

members, terms, qualifications, duties, responsibilities, 1 2 compensation, and expenses of the commission; to amend Sections 23-1-21 and 23-1-21.2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating 3 to the salary, appointment, qualifications, and authority of the Director of the Department of Transportation; Section 5 23-1-22, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding the approval of the 6 7 director's appointment of a chief engineer; Section 23-1-30, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding the department's legal 8 division functions and duties; Section 23-1-34, Code of 9 10 Alabama 1975, regarding the records maintained by the department; Section 23-1-39, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding 11 12 seals and the power to administer oaths; Section 23-1-42, Code 13 of Alabama 1975, regarding roads located on state institutions; Section 23-1-50, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding 14 15 procurement of equipment; Sections 23-1-54 and 23-1-60, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding the director's authority to execute 16 17 contracts and supplemental contracts for the road and bridge construction, maintenance, and repair; Section 23-1-55, Code 18 of Alabama 1975, requiring that the newly created Alabama 19 20 Transportation Commission approve the letting of contracts for 21 the construction, repair, or renewals of highways, bridges, or 22 culverts in the state; Section 23-1-58, Code of Alabama 1975, 23 to prohibit members of the Alabama Transportation Commission from having an interest in any contract for the construction, 24 25 repair, or maintenance of any road or bridge in this state; 26 Section 23-1-59, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding the promulgation of department rules; Section 23-1-61, Code of 27

Alabama 1975, regarding the receipt and disbursal of department funds; Section 23-1-249, Code of Alabama 1975, to delete the authority of the director regarding the promulgation of junkyard control rules and regulations; and Section 23-1-286, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the authority to promulgate outdoor advertising rules would be granted to the commission; to repeal Section 23-1-41, Code of Alabama 1975, regarding self-insurance for department employees, and Section 23-1-63, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the limitation of obligations on the inauguration date of the incoming Governor. 

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 23-1A-1, 23-1A-2, and 23-1A-3 are added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: \$23-1A-1.

- (a) There shall be an Alabama Transportation

  Commission which shall consist of five members, who shall be initially appointed by the Governor for terms of six, five, four, three, and two years, respectively. Initial commission members shall be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this act which appointments shall be effective upon the date of the last appointment. Thereafter, members of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor for six-year terms.
- (b) A member of the commission may not serve consecutive terms. The membership of the commission shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and

economic diversity of the state. The commission shall report
to the Legislature by the second legislative day of each
regular session the extent to which the membership of the
commission has met the diversity requirements of this
provision. Members of the commission shall be appointed by the

Governor as follows:

- (1) One member from the northern region of this state consisting of the following counties: Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Marshall, St. Clair, Walker, and Winston.
  - (2) One member from the central region of this state consisting of the following counties: Bibb, Chambers, Chilton, Clay, Coosa, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lee, Perry, Pickens, Randolph, Russell, Shelby, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, and Tuscaloosa.
  - (3) One member from the southern region of this state consisting of the following counties: Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Washington, and Wilcox.
  - "(4) Two members from the state at-large, who at the time of appointment shall not be a resident of the same Congressional district as another member.

- 1 (c) A member of the commission shall have at least
  2 10 years' experience in a business or profession of which at
  3 least five years was in a responsible administrative capacity.
  4 All or part of the experience may have been with the United
  5 States government, a state, or a political subdivision of a
  6 state.
  - (d) If a vacancy in the commission occurs, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term within 30 days of the vacancy.

- part-time in the performance of their official duties, but shall hold no other public office of profit with: (1) A state or political subdivision of a state; (2) a state or local governmental or quasi-governmental commission, agency, board, or authority; or (3) a public corporation created by the Legislature. The members shall not be employed in the roadbuilding industry, as a lobbyist, or as an employee or member of a firm that provides goods or services to the Department of Transportation.
- (f) The members of the commission shall receive no annual salary but shall receive fifty dollars (\$50) for each day or partial day of actual service, actual travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, mileage reimbursement in accordance with state law, and other necessary expenses, including food and lodging, incurred in attending meetings and transacting the business of the commission. The commission members shall be paid from the

- Department of Transportation funds in the same manner as other expenses of the department are paid.
- (g) The Governor may remove any member of the commission for immorality, misconduct in office, incompetency or willful neglect of duty, inability to perform the duties of the office, or failure to maintain the citizenship and residency requirements of this section, by giving to the member a copy of the charges against him or her and, upon not less than 10 days' notice, an opportunity of being heard publicly in person or by counsel in his or her own defense. If any member shall be removed, the Governor shall file in the office of the Secretary of State a complete statement of all charges against the member, the findings thereon together with a record of the proceedings.
  - (h) Each member of the commission shall take the constitutional oath of office prescribed by Section 279 of the Constitution of Alabama 1901, now appearing as Section 279 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, prior to exercising any authority or performing any duty.

\$23-1A-2.

(a) The Transportation Commission shall meet in regular session at least quarterly, with at least one of the regular sessions held at the central office of the Department of Transportation in Montgomery. At its initial meeting, the commission shall elect a chair. Other meetings may be held as the needs of public transportation may require on dates to be

set by the commission in official session or by the chair or
by the director on written request of a majority of the
commission members. The rules generally adopted by
deliberative bodies for their government shall be observed by
the commission.

- (b) A majority of the commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the official business of the commission. Any power of the commission may be exercised by a majority vote of those members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum.
- (c) Before entering upon the duties of the office, each commission member shall execute to the state a bond, to be approved by the Governor in an amount fixed by the Governor, for the faithful performance of his or her duties.
- (d) Necessary supplies, stationery, and equipment shall be provided for the commission by the department.
- (e) The department shall provide administrative support as necessary to perform the functions of the commission within budgetary limitations.

\$23-1A-3.

The Transportation Commission shall be responsible for and have the authority to assume the following duties:

- (1) Establish a program of current and long-range planning, including a transportation facilities construction program plan.
- (2) Establish transportation policies for the quidance and direction of the director.

- 1 (3) Establish transportation policies for general aviation airports, railways, and waterways.
- 3 (4) Periodically review the status of the state 4 transportation system.

- (5) Adopt rules as may be necessary to give full force and effect to any of the provisions of the act adding this section. Except as otherwise provided by law or expressly provided in this subdivision, any rule of the department or commission shall be governed by and subject to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. Any rule of the department or the commission regarding design, construction, repair, and maintenance of highways, roads, and bridges, structures, or facilities and relocation assistance shall not be governed by or subject to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.
- (6) Receive all road and bridge funds, and any other funds provided to, on behalf of, or credited to the department from any source.
- (7) Exercise sole authority to disburse all funds, including, but not limited to, road and bridge funds, and any interest thereon, provided to, on behalf of, or credited to the department, in a manner consistent with state or federal laws, rules, or regulations, which authority may be delegated to the director, in whole or in part.

Section 2. Sections 23-1-21, 23-1-21.2, 23-1-22, 23-1-30, 23-1-34, 23-1-39, 23-1-42, 23-1-50, 23-1-54, 23-1-55, 23-1-58, 23-1-59, 23-1-60, 23-1-61, 23-1-249, and 23-1-286, 27 Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

1	<b>"</b> §23-1-21.
2	"(a) The chief executive officer of the State
3	Department of Transportation shall be known as the Director of
4	Transportation, who shall be appointed by the Governor
5	Transportation Commission and shall hold office at the
6	pleasure of the Governor. All the powers, authority, and
7	duties vested in the State Department of Transportation shall
8	be exercised by the Director of Transportation commission.
9	"Before entering upon the duties of office, the
10	Director of Transportation shall execute to the State of
11	Alabama a bond, to be approved by the Governor Transportation
12	Commission, in an amount to be fixed by the Governor
13	Transportation Commission, for the faithful performance of his
14	or her duties.
15	"(b) The compensation of the director shall be set
16	by the Transportation Commission at an amount not to exceed
17	fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) above the annual salary of
18	the highest paid Department of Transportation Merit System
19	employee, and shall be paid in installments from the State
20	Treasury in the same manner that salaries of other state
21	officers are paid.
22	"(c) The director shall possess the following
23	qualifications:
24	"(1) Good moral character.
25	"(2) Knowledge in public transportation.

1	"(3) Graduation from a college or university
2	accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by
3	the State Personnel Department.
4	"(4) At least 10 years' experience in an executive
5	or administrative capacity.
6	"(d) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the
7	director, the chief engineer of the department shall serve as
8	acting director until the commission selects a replacement.
9	The Transportation Commission shall name a new director within
10	120 days of a vacancy.
11	"\$23-1-21.2.
12	"(a) The director, acting alone or through, and in
13	cooperation with local entities, is hereby delegated the
14	authority to may do all of the following:
15	"(1) Enter into agreements with local entities to
16	provide public transportation and to administer any program or
17	programs, whether rural or urban, relative to public
18	transportation resulting from federal transportation
19	legislation. This shall include but not be limited to applying
20	for, accepting, and expending federal public transportation
21	funds in accordance with applicable federal laws and
22	regulations.
23	"(2) Enter into agreements with the United States
24	for federal assistance for public transportation.
25	"(3) Enter into agreements with local entities to
26	perform and/or cooperate in the performance of transportation
27	planning for public transportation improvements. However, the

1	director shall not perform such planning until such time as
2	the local entities affected enter into agreement with the
3	director to carry out a planning process.
4	"(4) Provide any available technical assistance to
5	local entities for formulating a program of public
6	transportation projects to assure that said projects are in
7	accordance with the comprehensive transportation planning
8	process where such process is established and is a
9	prerequisite for federal assistance.
10	"(5) Administer any state funds authorized from time
11	to time by the Legislature for the purpose of public
12	transportation.
13	"(6) Develop and promulgate such rules and
14	regulations as are determined necessary to insure compliance
15	with federal laws and regulations.
16	"(6) Administer any federal funds received by the
17	department for the purpose of public transportation.
18	"(7) Administer any and all funds, including any
19	interest thereon, deposited into the State Road and Bridge
20	Fund.
21	"(b) In addition to the duties listed in subsection
22	(a), the director shall do the following:
23	"(1) Administer the policies promulgated by the
24	commission.
25	"(2) Supervise all administrative and technical
26	activities of the department.
27	"(3) Organize the offices of the department.

1	"(4) Coordinate the activities of the various
2	offices of the department.
3	"(5) Recommend studies and investigations subject to
4	commission approval as may be appropriate and execute the
5	approved recommendations in conjunction with the various
6	offices.
7	"(6) Have day-to-day supervision over all
8	transportation matters relating to the construction or
9	maintenance of the state highways, letting of contracts
10	therefor, the selection of materials to be used in the
11	construction of state highways, and, in accordance with Merit
12	System laws and regulations for Merit System employees, the
13	employment, promotion, demotion, reprimand, suspension,
14	termination, reassignment, transfer, moving, or relocation of
15	all personnel not specifically authorized by statute to be
16	employed by the commission. The director may authorize the
17	payment of expenses of any personnel reassigned, transferred,
18	moved, or relocated in accordance with state law as provided
19	<u>in Sections 36-7-40 and 36-7-41.</u>
20	"(7) Execute all contracts and agreements in the
21	name of the state.
22	"(8) Implement the transportation facilities
23	construction program as recommended by the Transportation
24	Commission.
25	"(9) Provide assistance and information to the
2.6	Transportation Commission as requested

1	•	' <u>(10)</u>	Other	duties	as	assigned	or	delegated	by	the
2	Transportat	cion (	Commiss	sion.						

3 "\$23-1-22.

"(a) There is hereby created within the State

Department of Transportation the position of chief engineer,
which shall be filled by appointment by the Director of

Transportation, with the approval of the Governor

Transportation Commission. Such appointment shall also be
subject to approval by the State Board of Registration for

Engineers and Land Surveyors. The salary of the chief engineer
shall be as determined pursuant to Chapter 6 of Title 36, and

he the chief engineer shall be allowed traveling expenses when
traveling on business of the state pursuant to Article 2 of
Chapter 7 of Title 36, all to be paid from funds of the State
Department of Transportation as salaries and expenses of other
State Department of Transportation employees are paid. The
chief engineer shall give bond for the faithful performance of
his or her duties in an amount to be approved by the Governor.

"(b) The chief engineer shall serve under the direction of the Director of Transportation and otherwise be entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities as other Merit System employees, and his <u>or her</u> service and removal shall be subject to the state Merit System regulations.

"\$23-1-30.

"The functions and duties of the legal division of the State Department of Transportation shall, as all other assistant attorneys general, include the following:

1	"(1) To advise the <u>Transportation Commission and the</u>
2	Director of Transportation and other personnel of the State
3	Department of Transportation on the legal aspects of all State
4	Department of Transportation business:

- "(2) To examine and advise as to the legality of all contracts and agreements entered into by the State Department of Transportation or the Director of Transportation;
- "(3) To take all legal action necessary or desirable in the acquisition of rights-of-way for state and interstate highways;
  - "(4) To appear in court as attorney for the State of Alabama and the State Department of Transportation in the acquisition of rights-of-way for state and interstate highways; and
  - "(5) To represent the <u>Transportation Commission</u>,

    State Department of Transportation, and the Director of

    Transportation in all legal proceedings to which the

    <u>Transportation Commission</u>, State Department of Transportation,

    or the Director of Transportation is a party.

20 "\\$23-1-34.

"The State Department of Transportation shall keep on file in its office copies of all plans and specifications prepared by the State Department of Transportation, in accordance with Section 41-13-21, and the files and records of such department shall, under reasonable regulations, be kept open for inspection of the public at all reasonable hours.

1 Certified copies of records shall be received in evidence in 2 all the courts of this state.

3 "\$23-1-39.

"The State Department of Transportation shall have a seal and the director shall have the power to administer oaths, take affidavits, and make certificates.

"\$23-1-42.

"(a) The roads and streets, drives and parking areas located on the campus of any state institution of higher learning, the Alabama state hospitals, the Partlow State School and Hospital and the Alabama Agricultural Center in the City of Montgomery shall be deemed a part of the state highway system and may be constructed, maintained and repaired by the State Department of Transportation in the same manner as other highways and roads in the state highway system.

"(b) The State Department of Transportation or the director thereof is hereby authorized and empowered to may expend any funds in the Public Road and Bridge Fund to effectuate the purpose of this section, provided such expenditure is first approved by the Governor.

"\$23-1-50.

"Subject to the provisions of Chapter 4, Title 41, the The State Department of Transportation is authorized to may rent, construct, or purchase such buildings, stock, machinery, tools, materials, and other equipment as it may find necessary for use in carrying out the provisions of this chapter and pay for the same out of the State Highway Fund. It

shall also, subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title

41, pay out of said the fund the necessary expenses of the
department of every description, including traveling expenses
of the officials and engineers, superintendents, foremen and
clerks, etc., while in the actual performance of their duties
authorized or imposed by this chapter and also the cost of all
supplies or materials furnished for said the department and
for the maintenance of all machinery used by the department or
its agent.

"\$23-1-54.

"Every contract for road or bridge construction, repair, or maintenance under the provisions of this chapter shall be made in the name of the State of Alabama, approved and executed by the Director of the State Department of Transportation and the Governor.

"\$23-1-55.

"No contracts for construction, repair, or renewals of highways, bridges, or culverts shall be let without the approval of the Governor Transportation Commission and until after all necessary right-of-way for such highways and right for material for construction and right-of-way for ingress and egress to said the material have been legally procured and all documents covering such procurement have been placed on file with the Director of Transportation.

"\$23-1-58.

"Neither <u>any member of the Transportation</u>

Commission, the director, nor any other person in the employ

of the Department of Transportation shall be, either directly or indirectly, interested in any contract or agreement for the construction or maintenance of any road or bridge in this state or in the sale of any machinery, material, or anything whatever entering into the construction, repair, or maintenance of the roads and bridges of this state.

"\$23-1-59.

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"(a) The State Department of Transportation shall have the right and power to Transportation Commission may adopt all reasonable and necessary rules and regulations for the better construction, repair, and maintenance of the public roads and bridges in Alabama under the jurisdiction of the department which the department shall deem proper. The director, on behalf of the department, shall have the power to may enter into contracts and agreements with the owners or operators of telegraph or telephone lines, community antenna television systems, power transmission lines, gas districts, gas, water, sewer, or other pipelines which are constructed, to be constructed or operated along or across the right-of-way of public roads, bridges, and highways of this state and to prescribe all reasonable rules and regulations as to the construction, repair, or maintenance of the poles, wires, and lines of such telegraph, telephone, community antenna television systems, or power companies and pipelines of gas districts, gas, water, sewer, or other pipeline companies so as to insure provide for the safety of the travelling public in using the roads, bridges, and highways in this state.

"(b) The <del>State Department of Transportation</del>
Transportation Commission may prescribe any reasonable rules
and regulations so as to prevent unnecessary trespassing upon
or injury to any of the public roads, bridges, or highways of
the state upon which state money may be expended or
appropriated or upon any part of the right-of-way of any of
the public roads or highways in the state upon which state
money may be expended or appropriated.

"(c) The State Department of Transportation

Transportation Commission may prescribe rules and regulations
as to the weight or tonnage of vehicles to be used upon any of
the public roads, bridges, or highways of the state upon which
state money may be expended or appropriated, except as may be
otherwise provided by law.

"(d) The State Department of Transportation

Transportation Commission, in addition to the right,
authority, and powers conferred upon it by this title, is
authorized to may make all such reasonable rules and
regulations as the department commission may deem necessary to
carry out the provisions of this title and comply with federal
rules or regulations.

"\$23-1-60.

"The following implementation of the provisions of the State Department of Transportation standard specifications for highways and bridges is hereby adopted as a statutory provision, any and all other laws in conflict notwithstanding: "(1) ALTERATION OF PLANS OR CHARACTER OR WORK. The Director of Transportation shall have the authority to make, at any time during the progress of any construction on any highway project under his or her jurisdiction, may make such changes or alterations of construction details, including alterations in grade or alignment of roadway or bridges, or both, as may be necessary or desirable for the successful completion of the project. The aforementioned changes or alterations may or may not increase or decrease the original planned quantities; however, under no circumstances shall changes or alterations involve any work beyond the termini of the original construction project, except as may be necessary to satisfactorily complete the project in the most feasible and economical manner, in the judgment of the Director of Transportation.

- "(2) EXTRA WORK. The Director of Transportation shall have the authority to may determine the need for new or additional work not contemplated or included in the original construction contract. This new or additional work shall not extend beyond the termini of the original construction project, except as may be necessary to satisfactorily complete the project in the most feasible and economical manner, in the judgment of the Director of Transportation.
- "(3) SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT OR FORCE ACCOUNT ORDER.

  The Director of Transportation shall have the authority to may enter into a supplemental contract with the prime contractor, setting forth the estimated quantities of extra work and

specifying the unit prices or lump sum agreed upon by the parties involved; provided, that such supplemental contract shall not be subject to any competitive bid laws of this state. If a satisfactory unit price or lump sum cannot be agreed upon, the Director of Transportation shall have the authority to direct that extra work be performed on a force account basis, as defined by the State Department of Transportation standard specifications for highways and bridges.

"(4) Every supplemental contract for road or bridge construction, repair, or maintenance under this chapter shall be made in the name of the State of Alabama and executed by the director of the department.

"\$23-1-61.

There is hereby appropriated to the State

Department of Transportation for its use the entire net

revenue derived by the state from the sale of motor vehicle,

trailer and tractor licenses, and such other appropriations or

funds received by the State Department of Transportation shall

be expended and accounted for as provided in this article.

Said After the effective date of the act adding this language,

the Department of Transportation shall be subject to Chapter

19, Title 41, the Budget Management Act. The State Highway

Fund shall be paid out of the Treasury on the Comptroller's

warrant drawn upon presentation to him of the certificate of

the department approved by the Governor.

"§23-1-249.

1	"The director may:
2	"(1) Promulgate regulations he deems necessary to
3	implement and enforce provisions of this division; and
4	"(2) Enter The director may enter into agreements
5	with the United States Department of Transportation pursuant
6	to Title 23, United States Code, and any amendments thereto,
7	relating to the control of junkyards in areas adjacent to the
8	interstate and primary systems and to take action in the name
9	of the state to comply with the terms of this agreement.
10	<b>"</b> §23-1-286.
11	"The <del>Director of</del> Transportation <u>Commission</u> is hereby
12	authorized to may adopt such rules and regulations as are
13	necessary and appropriate to carry out the provisions of this
14	division."
15	Section 3. (a) Section 23-1-41 of the Code of
16	Alabama 1975, relating to the self-insurance program for
17	department employees, is repealed.
18	(b) Section 23-1-63 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
19	relating to the limitation of obligations on the inauguration
20	date of the incoming Governor, is repealed.
21	Section 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to
22	affect the current distribution of interest income generated
23	by any state, federal or local funds under the purview of the
24	Department of Transportation. This section expressly includes
25	interest income deposited into the State General Fund.
26	Section 5. All laws or parts of laws which conflict
27	with this act are repealed.

Section 6. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.