- 1 HB648
- 2 152401-2
- 3 By Representative Jones
- 4 RFD: Judiciary
- 5 First Read: 18-APR-13

| 1 | <u>ENGROSSED</u> |
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| 4 | A BILL |
| 5 | TO BE ENTITLED |
| 6 | AN ACT |
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| 8 | To provide for the establishment of a pretrial |
| 9 | diversion program; to allow any governing body of a |
| 10 | municipality to establish a discretionary pretrial diversion |
| 11 | program; and to set basic operating standards for the program. |
| 12 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: |
| 13 | Section 1. (a) The governing body of any |
| 14 | municipality may establish or abolish a pretrial diversion |
| 15 | program for that municipality and may provide for the |
| 16 | assessment and collection of fees for the administration of |
| 17 | such program. |
| 18 | (b) Any pretrial diversion program established |
| 19 | pursuant to this act shall be under the supervision of the |
| 20 | presiding judge for the municipality pursuant to any rules and |
| 21 | regulations established by the municipal governing body. The |
| 22 | presiding judge, with approval of the municipal governing body |
| 23 | and the municipal prosecutor, may contract with any agency, |
| 24 | person, or business entity for any service necessary to |
| 25 | accomplish the purpose of this act. |
| 26 | (c) The presiding municipal judge, acting in |
| 27 | consultation with the municipal prosecutor, shall have the |

authority to establish all rules and terms necessary for the implementation of a pretrial diversion program.

Section 2. (a) A person charged with a criminal offense under the jurisdiction of the municipal court in a municipality that has established a pretrial diversion program may apply to the court for admittance to the program.

- (b) Upon receipt of the application <u>and</u> recommendation of the municipal prosecutor, the judge shall determine whether to grant the individual admittance to the program.
- (c) Upon admittance to the program, the individual shall be required to enter a plea of guilty at which time the case shall be placed in an administrative docket until such time as the offender has completed all requirements of the pretrial diversion program. Imposition of any sentence shall be deferred until such time as the offender completes the pretrial diversion program or is terminated from the program.
- (d) In the event the offender does not satisfactorily complete the program and all terms thereof, the court shall dismiss the case pursuant to the rules established by the municipality impose an appropriate sentence in the same manner as with any guilty plea.
- (e) Upon successful completion of the program and all terms thereof, the court shall dismiss the case pursuant to the rules established by the municipality.
- (f) A holder of a commercial driver's license, an operator of a commercial motor vehicle, or a commercial driver

1 learner permit holder who is charged with a violation of a
2 traffic law in this state shall not be eliqible for a pretrial
3 diversion program pursuant to this act.

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(f) (q) Absent wantonness, gross negligence, or intentional misconduct, the municipality, or its officers or employees, shall have no liability, criminal or civil, for the conduct of any offender while participating in a pretrial diversion program established under this act or of any service provider or its agents that are contracted to or who have agreed to provide services to the pretrial diversion program.

employees, shall have no liability, criminal or civil, for any injury or harm to the offender while the offender is a participant in any pretrial diversion program administered pursuant to this act. The municipal prosecutor may require written agreed upon waivers of liability as a prerequisite for admittance into the pretrial diversion program.

Section 3. If, on the effective date of this act, a municipal pretrial diversion program, or an equivalent, has been established by local law, the municipal governing body of the municipality governed by such local law may choose to come under the provisions of this act or continue under the provisions of the local law.

Section 4. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and 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 Judiciary 18-APR-13 |
| 8 9 10 | Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 2 amendments 23-APR-13 |
| 11 12 13 | Read for the third time and passed as amended 25-APR-13 Yeas 96, Nays 0, Abstains 1 |
| 14 15 16 17 | Jeff Woodard Clerk |