

1 SB378
2 148968-8
3 By Senators Dial and Holtzclaw
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 04-APR-13

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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 and
13 business roundtables within the aerospace,
14 aviation, and related industries, and promote
15 activities and industries related to space
16 exploration and making maximum use of space
17 capabilities. The authority would include
18 representatives of the Alabama Department of
19 Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department of
20 Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature, and
21 other individuals with knowledge and interest in
22 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 and the maximum use of space
8 capabilities; to include representatives on the authority of
9 the Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department
10 of Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature, and other
11 individuals with knowledge and interest 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 develop either as a state facility, a private
10 facility, or a public-private facility within the State of
11 Alabama a spaceport.

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

14 (3) Encourage the education and training of
15 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and
16 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of
17 space.

18 (4) Promote new space exploration and the maximum
19 use of space capabilities, space tourism, and spaceport
20 technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate, academic,
21 public, and private innovation infrastructures.

22 (5) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
23 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
24 and public officials.

25 (6) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
26 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
27 and expand space enterprise.

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

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

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

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

18 Section 5. For the purpose of accomplishing the
19 duties enumerated in Section 4, the authority shall have the
20 following powers:

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

25 (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other
26 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary
27 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the

1 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,
2 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such
3 property.

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

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

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

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

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

25 Section 9. This act shall become effective
26 immediately following its passage and approval by the
27 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

