

1 SB142
2 156562-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14

SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama Space Authority within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to promote the research and development of new space exploration and spaceport technologies, sponsor conferences and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and related industries, and promote activities and industries related to space exploration and making maximum use of space capabilities.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To create the Alabama Space Authority within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), to promote the research and development of new space exploration and spaceport technologies, sponsor conferences and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and

1 related industries, and promote activities and industries
2 related to space exploration and the maximum use of space
3 capabilities; to include representatives on the authority of
4 the Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department
5 of Transportation, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the
6 Legislature, and other individuals with knowledge and interest
7 in space technology.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

9 Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama
10 Space Authority.

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

25 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an
26 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community
27 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support

1 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant
2 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the
3 authority.

4 Section 4. The authority shall have the following
5 duties:

6 (1) To develop either as a state facility, a private
7 facility, or a public-private facility within the State of
8 Alabama a spaceport.

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

11 (3) Encourage the education and training of
12 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and
13 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of
14 space.

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

19 (5) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
20 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
21 and public officials.

22 (6) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
23 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
24 and expand space enterprise.

25 (7) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small
26 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to

1 stimulate economic development and innovation within the
2 aerospace and space systems communities.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other
24 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary
25 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the
26 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,

1 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such
2 property.

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

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

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

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

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

24 Section 9. The authority membership shall reflect
25 the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic
26 diversity of the state.

1 Section 10. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.