

1 SB64
2 180883-3
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Transportation and Energy
5 First Read: 07-FEB-17

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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11 To create the Alabama Space Authority within the
12 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA),
13 to promote the research and development of new space
14 exploration and spaceport technologies; to sponsor conferences
15 and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and
16 related industries; and promote activities and industries
17 related to space exploration; to include representatives on
18 the authority of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the
19 Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department of
20 Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature, and other
21 individuals with knowledge and interest in space technology.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama
24 Space Authority.

25 Section 2. The authority shall be composed of a
26 representative of the University of Alabama in Huntsville,
27 selected by the President of the University of Alabama in

1 Huntsville, the Director of the Auburn University Aviation
2 Center, the President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical
3 University, the Secretary of the Alabama Department of
4 Commerce, the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic
5 and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Director of the Department
6 of Transportation (ALDOT), and six other members to be
7 selected from the aerospace, aviation, and related industries,
8 or persons having knowledge or interest in space technology,
9 according to the following manner: One member appointed by the
10 Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, two
11 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President
13 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

14 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an
15 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community
16 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support
17 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant
18 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the
19 authority.

20 Section 4. The authority shall have the following
21 duties:

22 (1) Encourage the education and training of
23 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and
24 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of
25 space.

26 (2) Promote new space exploration, space tourism,
27 and spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of

1 corporate, academic, public, and private innovation
2 infrastructures.

3 (3) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
4 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
5 and public officials.

6 (4) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
7 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
8 and expand space enterprise.

9 (5) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small
10 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to
11 stimulate economic development and innovation within the
12 aerospace and space systems communities.

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

17 (7) Perform a study on the feasibility of securing
18 approval for the State of Alabama to have a federally licensed
19 spaceport.

20 (8) Identify, acquire, and manage the development of
21 public lands for space related activities including, if found
22 to be feasible, space launch.

23 (9) Encourage space research and education centers
24 to support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

25 (10) Work with the Department of Tourism, the
26 Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and other public
27 agencies to communicate the multiple scientific, educational,

1 and commercial benefits of space exploration and the legacy of
2 Alabama's contributions to America's space program to the
3 public and to promote space tourism and training.

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

7 (1) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other
8 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary
9 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the
10 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,
11 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such
12 property.

13 (2) To exercise the right allocated to the state to
14 acquire property used or useful for the purpose for which the
15 authority is formed as freely and completely as and in the
16 same manner that the State of Alabama is empowered to exercise
17 such rights.

18 (3) To lease all or any part of the facilities or
19 property of the authority to any person and, from time to
20 time, fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals under such
21 leases.

22 Section 6. Nothing in this act should be construed
23 to limit the ability of municipalities or counties from
24 developing aerospace infrastructure and capabilities.

25 Section 7. The enumeration of duties and powers
26 shall not be construed to give any other public or private
27 entity, department, or subdivision of the state, other than

1 the Alabama Space Authority, the right to exercise the
2 aforementioned powers.

3 Section 8. The authority may not be dissolved while
4 it still holds outstanding bonds or other unpaid indebtedness.

5 Section 9. Membership of the authority shall serve
6 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and
7 travel expenses at the same rate and under the same
8 circumstances as are payable by law to state employees for
9 each day they attend business of the authority.

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

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Transportation and Energy..... 07-FEB-17

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar..... 09-FEB-17

Read for the third time and passed as amended 16-FEB-17

Yeas 28
Nays 0

Patrick Harris
Secretary