- 1 HB98
- 2 197868-5
- 3 By Representative Ellis
- 4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
- 5 First Read: 05-MAR-19

1	<u>ENGROSSED</u>
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4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
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8	To amend Sections 18-1A-3 and 18-1A-22, Code of
9	Alabama 1975, relating to condemnation actions by the state
10	and its political subdivisions; to define terms; and to allow
11	waiver valuations to be used in lieu of appraisals to
12	determine real property values for the purposes of
13	right-of-way acquisitions.
14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
15	Section 1. Sections 18-1A-3 and 18-1A-22, Code of
16	Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
17	"\$18-1A-3.
18	"As used in this chapter, the following terms shall
19	have the following meanings, respectively, unless the context
20	clearly indicates otherwise:
21	"(1) ACTION. Condemnation action.
22	"(2) APPRAISAL. An opinion as to the value of or
23	compensation payable for property, prepared by the owner or
24	under the direction of an individual qualified by knowledge,
25	skill, experience, training, or education to express an
26	opinion as to the value of property.

- "(3) BUSINESS. A lawful activity, whether or not for profit, other than a farm operation, conducted primarily for the purchase, sale, lease, rental, manufacture, processing, or marketing of products, commodities, or other property, or for providing services.
 - "(4) CONDEMN. To take property under the power of eminent domain.

- "(5) CONDEMNATION ACTION. Includes all acts incident to the process of condemning property after commencement of suit until the entry of final judgment.
 - "(6) CONDEMNEE. A person who has or claims an interest in property that is the subject of a prospective or pending condemnation action.
 - "(7) CONDEMNOR. A person empowered to condemn.
 - "(8) CROPS. Any form of vegetation intended to be removed and used or sold for commercial purposes, including grass, flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees, vines, and nursery stock.
 - "(9) FARM OPERATION. Any activity conducted primarily for the production of one or more agricultural products or commodities, including timber, for sale or home use, and customarily producing those products or commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.
 - "(10) IMPROVEMENT. Includes any building or structure and any facility, machinery, or equipment that cannot be removed from the real property on which it is

- situated without substantial damage to the real property or improvement.
- "(11) LIEN. A security interest in property arising from contract, mortgage, deed or of trust, statute, common law, equity, or creditor action.
- "(12) LITIGATION EXPENSES. The sum of the costs,

 disbursements, and expenses, including reasonable attorney,

 appraisal, and engineering fees, necessary to prepare for

 anticipated or participation in actual probate or circuit

 court proceedings.
- "(13) LOCAL PUBLIC ENTITY. A public entity other
 than the state.
- "(14) PERSON. Includes a natural individual,

 partnership, corporation, association, other legal or

 fiduciary entity, and a public entity.

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- "(15) PERSONAL PROPERTY. Any property other than
 real property which is affixed or directly related to the real
 property proposed to be acquired.
 - "(16) PROPERTY. An interest in real or personal property under the law of this state.
- "(17) REAL PROPERTY. Land and any improvements upon or connected with land; and includes an easement, servitude, or other interest therein.
- "(18) WORK. Includes construction, alteration,
 repair, remodeling, excavation, demolition, rehabilitation,
 relocation, and landscaping.

- "(19) VALUATION DATE. Shall be the date on which the
 application for order of condemnation is filed in the probate
 court or the date of taking of or damage to property by the
 condemnor whichever date first occurs.
 - "(20) WAIVER VALUATION. The valuation process utilized and the product produced by the state or a political subdivision thereof, in lieu of an appraisal, to acquire real property as specifically authorized by Section 18-1A-22.

"\$18-1A-22.

- "(a) (1) Before commencing a condemnation action, the condemnor shall establish an amount based on an appraisal, except as otherwise provided in subsection (e), which it believes to be just compensation therefor and promptly shall submit to the owner an offer to acquire the property for the full amount so established.
- "(2) The amount $\frac{1}{2}$ may not be less than the condemnor's established amount of just compensation for the property.
- "(b) In a total taking, the condemnor shall disregard any decrease or increase in the fair market value of the property caused by the project for which the property is to be acquired or by the reasonable likelihood that the property will be acquired for that project, other than normal depreciation.
- "(c) $\underline{(1)}$ The amount of compensation to which the owners and other parties interested therein are entitled must may not be reduced or diminished because of any incidental

benefits which may accrue to them or to their remaining lands in consequence of the uses to which the lands to be taken or in which the easement is to be acquired will be appropriated.

"provided, that in (2) In the condemnation of lands for ways and rights-of-way for public highways, water or sewer lines, the commissioners may, in fixing the amount of compensation to be awarded the owner for lands taken for this use, may take into consideration the value of the enhancement to the remaining lands of such the owner that such the highway, water or sewer lines may cause;.

"and provided further, that in (3) In proceedings instituted by water conservancy districts and water management districts, benefits accruing to the landowner from an improvement may be considered and allowed as a setoff against the damages to be awarded, but benefits derived from improvements other than the improvement for which the land is condemned cannot may not be considered.

- "(d) (1) The condemnor shall provide the owner of the property with a written statement and summary, showing the basis for the amount it established as just compensation for the property.
- "(2) If appropriate, the compensation for the property to be acquired and for the damages to remaining property shall be separately stated.
- "(e)(1) The state or a political subdivision thereof
 may use a waiver valuation, in lieu of an appraisal, to
 acquire real property if either of the following apply:

1	"a. The owner of the real property to be acquired is
2	donating the property and releases the state or a political
3	subdivision thereof from its obligation to appraise the
4	property.
5	"b. The state or a political subdivision thereof,
6	with the written consent of the owner of the real property to
7	be acquired, determines that an appraisal is unnecessary and
8	the anticipated value of the proposed acquisition, based upon
9	a review of available valuation data, is equal to or less than
10	the amount provided for in 49 CFR Section 24.102(c)(2)(ii), or
11	the appropriate replacement federal regulation.
12	"(2) When an appraisal is determined to be
13	unnecessary pursuant to this subsection, the state or a
14	political subdivision thereof shall prepare the waiver
15	valuation. The person preparing the waiver valuation shall
16	make his or her determination based on the available evidence
17	of the value of the real property in the local real estate
18	<pre>market."</pre>
19	Section 2. This act shall become effective
20	immediately following its passage and approval by the
21	Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7 8	Read for the first time and re- ferred to the House of Representa- tives committee on County and Mu- nicipal Government
9 10 11	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar with 1 substitute and 20-MAR-19
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13 14 15	Read for the third time and passed as amended 04-APR-19 Yeas 101, Nays 0, Abstains 0
16 17 18 19	Jeff Woodard Clerk