

1 HB213  
2 209293-1  
3 By Representatives Brown (C), Estes, Stringer, Bedsole,  
4 Isbell, Marques, Lipscomb, Sorrells, Reynolds, Stadthagen and  
5 Oliver  
6 RFD: Judiciary  
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SYNOPSIS: This bill would prohibit an individual or entity operating a website on which comments or posts can be made which receives any tax abatement, credit, or incentive from the state or a local government from censoring speech on the website that is not an incitement to violence and would require the refund of any abatement, credit, or incentive given an individual or entity that improperly censors speech on its website.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to tax abatements, credits, or incentives; to prohibit an individual or entity operating a website on which comments or posts can be made which receives any tax abatement, credit, or incentive from the state or a local government from censoring speech on the website except for speech that is an incitement to violence, and to require the

1 refund of the abatement, credit, or incentive if it censors  
2 speech on its website that is not an incitement to violence.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. This act may be known and shall be cited  
5 as the "Anti-Censorship Act."

6 Section 2. (a) An individual or entity that operates  
7 a website providing a forum for comments or posts which  
8 receives any tax abatement, credit, or incentive of any kind  
9 from the state or a municipality or county may not censor any  
10 comment or post appearing on its website, with the exception  
11 of a comment or post that is an incitement to violence.

12 (b) (1) If the state, municipality, or county  
13 determines that an individual or entity described in  
14 subsection (a) has violated subsection (a), the individual or  
15 entity shall refund the abatement, credit, or incentive.

16 (2) Upon the award of any tax abatement, credit, or  
17 incentive described in subsection (a), the state,  
18 municipality, or county shall adopt procedures for the review  
19 of complaints pertaining to violations of subsection (a) and  
20 the implementation of this act.

21 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
22 first day of the third month following its passage and  
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.