

1 SB83
2 216349-2
3 By Senators Melson, Butler, Waggoner, Barfoot, Allen,
4 Scofield, Williams, Chambliss, Livingston, Elliott, Stutts,
5 Reed, Smitherman and Sessions
6 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development
7 First Read: 13-JAN-22

1 SB83

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 Relating to airports; to create the Alabama Airport
6 Economic and Infrastructure Program, to fund and pay debt
7 service for improvements to general aviation airports and
8 commercial service airports and to fund efforts to grow and
9 expand commercial air service in Alabama.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. The Legislature of Alabama finds and
12 declares the following:

13 (1) The State of Alabama has within its borders 78
14 airports; six of these provide services for commercial
15 flights, and 72 are general aviation airports.

16 (2) The airports in Alabama altogether require
17 approximately \$134.1 million in annual funding, \$59.3 million
18 of which is necessary solely for airport pavement funding,
19 according to the Alabama Department of Transportation
20 Aeronautics Bureau and the Airports Council International -
21 North America.

22 (3) Alabama receives approximately \$56 million
23 annually in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration
24 Federal Airport Improvement Program; to match these funds,
25 Alabama must commit approximately \$3.1 million.

1 (4) Other states that have an airport grant program
2 include, but are not limited to: Mississippi, with \$5 million
3 annually; North Carolina, with \$30 million for general
4 aviation airports and \$75 million for commercial service
5 airports; and Wyoming, with \$15 million for commercial air
6 service development.

7 Section 2. For purposes of this act, the following
8 terms shall have the following meanings:

9 (1) COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORT. As defined in 49
10 U.S.C. § 47102.

11 (2) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of
12 Transportation.

13 (3) DIRECTOR. The Director of Transportation for the
14 Alabama Department of Transportation.

15 (4) GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT. As defined in 49
16 U.S.C. § 47102.

17 (5) IMPROVEMENT. The acquiring, engineering,
18 construction, or maintenance of existing or proposed airports
19 and other air navigation facilities within the state.

20 (6) PROGRAM. The Alabama Airport Economic and
21 Infrastructure Program.

22 Section 3. There is established the Alabama Airport
23 Economic and Infrastructure Program under the Alabama
24 Department of Transportation. The purpose of the program shall
25 be the following:

1 (1) To fund improvements to general aviation
2 airports and commercial service airports.

3 (2) To pay debt service for improvements to general
4 aviation airports and commercial service airports.

5 (3) To fund efforts to grow and expand commercial
6 air service in Alabama.

7 Section 4. (a) The director or his or her designee
8 may award grants to general aviation and commercial service
9 airports to fund improvements, pay debt service for
10 improvements, or fund efforts to grow and expand commercial
11 aviation service in Alabama.

12 (b) Awards made under subsection (a) shall comply
13 with the following:

14 (1) Forty percent of the amount appropriated to the
15 program in a fiscal year shall be awarded to general aviation
16 airports.

17 (2) Sixty percent of the amount appropriated to the
18 program in a fiscal year shall be awarded to commercial
19 service airports. Grants to commercial service airports shall
20 be allocated based on the pro rata share of entitlement funds
21 received by each airport under the federal Airport Improvement
22 Program for the preceding fiscal year.

23 (3) The total amount of the grants awarded under
24 this act in any fiscal year may not exceed the amount
25 appropriated for the program for that fiscal year.

1 (c) (1) The director or his or her designee shall
2 establish a process to ensure that the grants are awarded
3 pursuant to subsection (a).

4 (2) The director or his or her designee shall ensure
5 that the grant funds awarded by the program are used solely
6 for the purposes specified in Section 3 of this act.

7 Section 5. Funding for the Alabama Airport Economic
8 and Infrastructure Program may come from the State General
9 Fund and shall be appropriated to the Alabama Department of
10 Economic and Community Affairs, to be operated and managed
11 through an intergovernmental agreement with the department. No
12 funds earmarked to the Department of Transportation shall be
13 used for this program.

14 Section 6. The director may adopt rules to implement
15 and administer this act.

16 Section 7. This act shall become effective on the
17 first day of the third month following its passage and
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB83

Senate 08-FEB-22

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Amended and passed 09-MAR-22

Senate concurred in House amendment 15-MAR-22

By: Senator Melson