

SJR94 ENROLLED



1 NXE688-2

2 By Senators Scofield, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley,
3 Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,
4 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,
5 Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed,
6 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,
7 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

8 RFD: RULES

9 First Read: 31-May-23

10 2023 Regular Session



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR___ REAFFIRMING REDSTONE ARSENAL IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,
5 AS THE BEST PERMANENT LOCATION FOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
6 U.S. SPACE COMMAND TO ADVANCE OUR NATION'S VITAL NATIONAL
7 SECURITY.

8

9 WHEREAS, the United States considers unfettered
10 freedom to operate in space vital to advancing the security,
11 economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of our nation;
12 the United States is reliant on space for vital military
13 systems that protect our nation and on widely used consumer
14 systems that benefit our economy; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command strengthens
16 our nation's ability to deter conflict and ensure unfettered
17 access to and freedom to operate in space and represents a
18 crucial step to improving the nation's space warfighting
19 structure in our ever evolving world; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command is the
21 newest unified combatant command under the Department of
22 Defense and includes forces from all military services; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Space Command will
24 accomplish strategic objectives and enhance the capability
25 of our military to protect our nation's dominance in space



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26 by employing assigned forces from every branch of the
27 military to achieve preeminence in space, and delivering
28 combat power by operating superior space capabilities such
29 as communications, intelligence, navigation, and early
30 missile detection warning; and

31 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Air
32 Force conducted both virtual and on-site visits to assess
33 which of six candidate locations would be best suited to
34 host the U.S. Space Command Headquarters based on
35 quantitative and qualitative factors related to mission,
36 infrastructure capacity, community support, quality of life,
37 education, and costs to the Department of Defense; and

38 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the Secretary of the
39 Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense,
40 selected Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, as the
41 preferred location for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters
42 after down-selecting from 24 states and over 65 other
43 possible locations; and

44 WHEREAS, the January 13, 2021, announcement was the
45 culmination of a complex, time-consuming process as the
46 United States Air Force selection team considered a wide
47 range of key indicators related to the command's mission,
48 examining workforce availability, costs, the presence of
49 Department of Defense assets, and much more; and

50 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force visited all of



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51 the cities in the competition to ascertain their advantages
52 and these communities made extensive presentations to make
53 their case; and the Air Force considered all the compiled
54 data points as part of its decision-making process and came
55 to the resolute conclusion that Huntsville and Alabama were
56 the superior choice, meeting a very high standard across
57 more critical indicators than any other competing community;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force explicitly
60 commended Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal as the best choice
61 for Space Command: "Huntsville compared favorably across
62 more of these factors than any other community providing a
63 large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior
64 infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring
65 costs. Additionally, Redstone Arsenal offered a facility to
66 support the headquarters, at no cost, while the permanent
67 facility is being constructed"; and

68 WHEREAS, moreover, a U.S. Government Accountability
69 Office report dated May 2022, stated, "Air Force analysis
70 identified Redstone Arsenal as the highest scoring location
71 in the Evaluation Phase, the highest ranked location in the
72 Selection Phase, and the location with the most advantages
73 in the decision matrix. Air Force officials, including the
74 then Secretary of the Air Force, stated that the decision to
75 identify Redstone Arsenal as the preferred location stemmed



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76 from Air Force analysis showing it was the strongest
77 candidate location"; and

78 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal, as the cradle of the
79 nation's rocket program, is a thriving, 38,000-acre federal
80 campus, home to more than 70 military commands and
81 government agencies and over 70,000 employees; and

82 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal houses many organizations
83 such as the Army Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Missile
84 Defense Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency/Missile and
85 Space Intelligence Center, Army Space and Missile Defense
86 Command, the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command
87 Aviation and Missile Center, and the Marshall Space Flight
88 Center, NASA's largest installation and the beating heart of
89 its propulsion research; the Marshall Space Flight Center's
90 scientists and engineers developed the Saturn V rocket that
91 took man to the Moon, and they continue to make major
92 contributions to the Artemis program, which will return
93 humanity to the Moon and beyond; and

94 WHEREAS, Redstone Arsenal is uniquely accessible by
95 rail, water, air, and highway; NASA's Marshall Space Flight
96 Center and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency are located on
97 the Redstone Arsenal campus with an existing world-class
98 aerospace and defense workforce; the City of Huntsville has
99 affordable cost-of-living, access to quality K-12 and
100 university education, existing infrastructure supporting



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101 Alabama's most populous city, and job opportunities for
102 spouses; and

103 WHEREAS, every major aerospace company has a
104 significant presence in Huntsville and the surrounding area:
105 Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Blue Origin, Aerojet Rocketdyne,
106 Northrop Grumman, and Space X, among others, and The United
107 Launch Alliance builds its powerful rockets in nearby
108 Decatur; and

109 WHEREAS, Huntsville's concentration of aerospace
110 engineers is among the highest in the nation, underscoring
111 and showcasing the excellence of the talented and ready
112 workforce; moreover, Huntsville and the surrounding area is
113 one of the most highly ranked in the nation for STEM
114 careers, with a high ratio of STEM careers in the workforce;
115 and

116 WHEREAS, the decision to house the U.S. Space Command
117 Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal is yet another chapter in
118 Huntsville and Alabama's unparalleled historic, six-decade
119 long, unique leadership in space that includes the
120 development of the rocket that went to the Moon, the
121 nation's only defense system against intercontinental
122 ballistic missiles, and Army programs in missiles and space
123 that keep our warfighters and allies aware and safe; and

124 WHEREAS, in addition to a large presence of critical
125 government agencies focused on civil space, research,



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126 development, life cycle management, and acquisition of space
127 and missile systems, Huntsville and the State of Alabama are
128 home to hundreds of aerospace and defense companies ranging
129 from major prime contractors to small, locally-owned
130 businesses that employ thousands of highly skilled workers,
131 the development of advanced technology and Artificial
132 Intelligence, as well as research-intensive universities;
133 now therefore,

134 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
135 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize and affirm the
136 United States Space Command's permanent headquarters at
137 Redstone Arsenal in Alabama as critical to our national
138 security and military readiness; express our deepest
139 appreciation to the United States Air Force for its
140 excellent selection; and respectfully urge the Biden
141 Administration to affirm Redstone Arsenal as the permanent
142 headquarters of the U.S. Space Command.

143 BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That we strongly dispute any
144 assertion that Alabama is anything less than the optimal
145 location for the United States Space Command Headquarters,
146 and similarly rebuke any allegations that Alabama was chosen
147 for any reason other than its unique suitability to host
148 this critical mission, and we applaud the United States Air
149 Force selection of Redstone Arsenal for SPACECOM
150 Headquarters above the other potential sites.



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151 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
152 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United
153 States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air
154 Force, and the members of the Alabama Congressional
155 delegation.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR94
Senate 31-May-23

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

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 06-Jun-23

By: Senator Scofield