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SYNOPSIS:

State and local law may establish deadlines for when a government agency must take action on an application for a license, permit, or other certification.

This bill would require a state or local governmental body, if no law provides for a time frame, to approve or deny an application for a license, permit, or other certification within 45 days of receiving the application and any applicable public notice and comment period closes, in certain circumstances.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to government-issued licenses and permits; to require state and local governmental bodies in certain circumstances to approve or deny licenses and permits within a prescribed time frame and if a governmental body fails to do so, deem the license or permit approved in certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



29           Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the  
30 following terms have the following meanings:

31           (1) LICENSE. Any license, permit, or other  
32 certification issued by a state governmental body which is  
33 necessary by law to operate a business, engage in an  
34 occupation, or undertake a specific activity.

35           (2) STATE GOVERNMENTAL BODY. The state and any agency,  
36 department, board, or commission of the state responsible for  
37 approving and issuing any license.

38           (b) Except as provided by state law or federal law or  
39 regulation, including any requirements for public hearing or  
40 public notice or comment that may delay the state governmental  
41 body's action, or unless waived by the applicant:

42           (1) Upon receiving an application for a license, the  
43 state governmental body shall determine whether the  
44 application is complete and if not, within 15 calendar days  
45 after receiving the application, the state governmental body  
46 shall respond to the applicant in writing with a description  
47 of the deficiencies in the application;

48           (2) Within 45 days after receiving a completed  
49 application for a license and any applicable public notice and  
50 comment period closes, the state governmental body shall  
51 approve or deny the application; and

52           (3) If a state governmental body fails to approve or  
53 deny an application for a license within 45 calendar days  
54 after receiving a completed application for a license and any  
55 applicable public notice and comment period closes:

56           a. The application for the license shall be placed on



57 the agenda for action by the state governmental body at its  
58 next regularly scheduled meeting; and

59 b. Once placed on the agenda for action as required in  
60 paragraph a., the application shall be deemed approved unless  
61 denied by vote of a majority of the state governmental body  
62 present and voting.

63 Section 2. (a) For the purposes of this section, the  
64 following terms have the following meanings:

65 (1) LICENSE. Any license, permit, or other  
66 certification issued by a local governmental body which is  
67 necessary by law to operate a business, engage in an  
68 occupation, or undertake a specific activity.

69 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODY. A county commission,  
70 governing body of a municipality, or any agency, department,  
71 board, or commission of the county or municipality responsible  
72 for approving and issuing any license.

73 (b) Except as provided by state law or federal law or  
74 regulation, including any requirements for public hearing or  
75 public notice or comment that may delay the local governmental  
76 body's action, or unless waived by the applicant:

77 (1) Upon receiving an application for a license, the  
78 local governmental body shall determine whether the  
79 application is complete and if not, within 15 calendar days  
80 after receiving the application, the local governmental body  
81 shall respond to the applicant in writing with a description  
82 of the deficiencies in the application;

83 (2) Within 45 days after receiving a completed  
84 application for a license and any applicable public notice and



85 comment period closes, the local governmental body shall  
86 approve or deny the application; and

87 (3) If a local governmental body fails to approve or  
88 deny an application for a license within 45 calendar days  
89 after receiving a completed application for a license and any  
90 applicable public notice and comment period closes:

91 a. The application for the license shall be placed on  
92 the agenda for action by the local governmental body at its  
93 next regularly scheduled meeting; and

94 b. Once placed on the agenda for action as required in  
95 paragraph a., the application shall be deemed approved unless  
96 denied by vote of a majority of the local governmental body  
97 present and voting.

98 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
99 1, 2025.