HB92 ENGROSSED



- 1 HB92
- 2 V2ZUPVL-2
- 3 By Representative Brown
- 4 RFD: Ports, Waterways & Intermodal Transit
- 5 First Read: 04-Feb-25
- 6 PFD: 24-Jan-25



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5	A BILL
6	TO BE ENTITLED
7	AN ACT
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9	Relating to state marine waters; to create the Alabama
10	Seagrass Restoration Task Force; and to provide for its
11	membership and duties.
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
13	Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to
14	establish a collaborative and coordinated effort among public
15	and private research entities to develop restoration
16	technologies and approaches to address the loss of seagrass
17	within state marine waters and the cascading ecological and
18	economic impacts of that loss to this state.
19	Section 2. (a) The Alabama Seagrass Restoration Task
20	Force is established to lead and expedite formulating,
21	testing, and developing innovative, effective, cost-efficient,
22	and environmentally sustainable technologies to restore
23	coastal seagrass ecosystems by building upon research and
24	efforts within the public and private sectors.
25	(b) The task force shall consist of the following
26	members:
27	(1) The executive director of the Dauphin Island Sea
28	Lab to serve as a cochair.



- 29 (2) The President of the University of South Alabama, 30 or his or her designee, to serve as a cochair.
- 31 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ports, 32 Waterways, and Intermodal Transit Committee.
- 33 (4) The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural 34 Resources, or his or her designee who has expertise in 35 seagrass ecosystems.
- 36 (5) The Director of the Mobile Bay National Estuary 37 Program.
- 38 (6) A member from a private commercial enterprise appointed by the Governor.
- 40 (7) A member from a public or private university in 41 this state other than the University of South Alabama 42 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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- (8) Two members from a non-university public or private marine environmental organization with one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.
 - (c) The task force shall develop in accordance with this act a 10-year Alabama Seagrass Restoration Plan to recommend the tools, approaches, and technologies developed pursuant thereto.
- 51 (d) If a vacancy occurs for any appointed member, the 52 respective appointing authority shall appoint a new member.
- 53 (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their 54 appointments to assure the task force membership is inclusive 55 and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and 56 economic diversity of this state.



- 57 (f) Task force members shall serve without compensation 58 but may be reimbursed for actual expenses associated with 59 attending meetings by their respective authority, entity, or 60 department according to applicable law.
 - (g) The initial meeting of the task force shall be called by the cochairs and shall be held by January 1, 2026. Thereafter the task force shall meet no less than twice per year.

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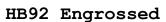
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- 65 (h) The Dauphin Island Sea Lab shall provide all
 66 necessary staff and support, including meeting space, to the
 67 task force for the performance of its duties.
- (i) Not later than the first day of each regular 68 session of the Legislature, the task force shall provide a 69 70 report of its progress made in developing and administering 71 the 10-year Alabama Seagrass Restoration Plan and its findings, conclusions, accomplishments, priorities for 72 73 subsequent years, and recommendations for proposed 74 legislation, if any, to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of 75 the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the 76 Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- Section 3. (a) The Dauphin Island Sea Lab shall be the fiscal agent for all funds appropriated to the task force to achieve the goals of the task force.
 - (b) The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, with the consent of the task force, may use funds appropriated to the task force to facilitate engagement with other relevant marine science and technology development organizations in this state, nation, and around the world to pursue applied research and technology



- 85 for the successful restoration of seagrass ecosystems.
- 86 (c) The Dauphin Island Sea Lab may retain funds
- appropriated to the task force for administrative costs
- 88 expended by the sea lab pursuant to this section.
- (d) The task force shall leverage, to the extent
- 90 possible, all state-appropriated funds with additional funds
- 91 from private and federal sources.
- 92 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
- 93 1, 2025.





94 95 96 House of Representatives Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25 97 to the House of Representatives 98 committee on Ports, Waterways & 99 Intermodal Transit 100 101 102 on the calendar: 103 104 1 amendment 105 106 Read for the third time and passed18-Feb-25 as amended 107 Yeas 101 108 Nays 0 109 Abstains 0 110 111 112 113 John Treadwell Clerk 114

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