

**HB416 ENROLLED**



1 HB416  
2 V7I1EVL-2  
3 By Representative Robertson (N & P)  
4 RFD: Local Legislation  
5 First Read: 10-Feb-26



## HB416 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 Relating to Cleburne County; to establish the Cleburne  
4 County Economic Development Authority; to provide for the  
5 membership of a board of directors; and to provide for the  
6 powers and duties of the authority.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. (a) The Cleburne County Economic Development  
9 Authority is established to negotiate for the county on all  
10 industrial and economic development matters in the county. The  
11 board of directors of the authority shall consist of the  
12 following members, all of whom must be residents and qualified  
13 electors of the county:

14 (1) Two members serving an initial term of two years,  
15 one of whom is appointed by the county commissioner  
16 representing District 4 and one of whom is appointed by the  
17 county commissioner representing District 2.

18 (2) Two members serving an initial term of four years,  
19 one of whom is appointed by the county commissioner  
20 representing District 1 and one of whom is appointed by the  
21 county commissioner representing District 3.

22 (3) One member serving an initial term of six years  
23 appointed by the chair of the county commission.

24 (b) Following initial terms, all members shall serve  
25 four-year terms that shall commence on January 1. Any vacancy  
26 on the board shall be filled by the respective appointing  
27 authority for the remainder of the member's term.

28 (c) Members of the board shall serve without



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29 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement from funds of  
30 the authority for their actual and necessary expenses incurred  
31 in the performance of their actual duties.

32 (d) No later than November 1, 2026, the board shall  
33 hold an organizational meeting at which time the board shall  
34 elect a chair and vice chair by majority vote of the members  
35 present and voting at the meeting. Thereafter, the board of  
36 directors shall meet at least quarterly and at any other time  
37 if two-thirds of the members of the board submit a request to  
38 the chair of the board stating a need for a special meeting.

39 (e) At the first board meeting in January of each year,  
40 the board of directors, by a majority vote, shall elect a  
41 chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer who shall hold  
42 office until their successors have been elected.

43 Section 2. (a) The board may adopt bylaws to regulate  
44 and administer the business of the Cleburne County Economic  
45 Development Authority.

46 (b) Members of the board shall appoint a director to  
47 serve at the pleasure of the board to carry out the day-to-day  
48 operations of the authority. The director shall be subject to  
49 the filing requirements under Section 36-25-14, Code of  
50 Alabama 1975.

51 Section 3. The authority may employ such personnel as  
52 the director, in consultation with the members of the board,  
53 deems necessary to carry out the duties and purposes of the  
54 authority. Personnel employed by the authority may participate  
55 in the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama like other  
56 employees of the county and may purchase prior service credit



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57 in the Employees' Retirement System for services rendered to  
58 Cleburne County under the applicable laws and rules of the  
59 Employees' Retirement System of Alabama.

60 Section 4. Members of the board of directors and the  
61 director of the authority shall be considered public officials  
62 for purposes of Chapter 25 of Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975.

63 Section 5. (a) The authority shall formulate and  
64 implement plans to promote and foster the industrial  
65 development and economic growth of all areas of Cleburne  
66 County and any incorporated municipalities located within the  
67 county. To this end, the authority shall be entitled to all of  
68 the powers, rights, privileges, exemptions, and immunities  
69 provided by the general laws of Alabama to local industrial  
70 development authorities, including, but not limited to,  
71 abatement or exemption of local taxes, issuance of bonds, and  
72 the acquisition, enlargement, improvement, replacement,  
73 ownership, leasing, selling, or disposing of properties as the  
74 authority deems necessary to promote the creation of jobs and  
75 develop commerce and trade within the county and the state.

76 (b) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the authority  
77 may not abate or exempt any local tax to any person or other  
78 entity unless the governing body of the local entity in which  
79 the tax is levied affirmatively approves the granting of the  
80 economic incentive.

81 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), the authority may  
82 not abate or exempt any local taxes to a board member, the  
83 director, or any employee of the authority; to his or her  
84 spouse or dependent child; or to any business with which the



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85 person is associated, as that term is defined in Section  
86 36-25-1, Code of Alabama 1975.

87 Section 6. The headquarters office of the authority  
88 shall be located in Cleburne County.

89 Section 7. The operations of the authority may be  
90 funded from any of the following sources:

91 (1) Funds appropriated or allocated by the Cleburne  
92 County Commission.

93 (2) Revenue from taxes on the sale of tobacco collected  
94 by the county.

95 (3) Grants from other governmental authorities or  
96 public organizations.

97 (4) Grants or donations from private individuals or  
98 organizations.

99 Section 8. This act shall become effective on October  
100 1, 2026.

