

HB525 INTRODUCED



1 HB525
2 TBY8T99-1
3 By Representative Hammett (Constitutional Amendment)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 26-Feb-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Covington County, to grant the Covington County Commission authority to adopt ordinances to protect public health and welfare; regulate the environmental impact of any industry, project, or activity; and establish and provide for civil penalties.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Covington County, to grant the Covington County Commission authority to adopt ordinances to protect public health and welfare; regulate the environmental impact of any industry, project, or activity; and establish and provide for civil penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, is proposed:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

(a) The Covington County Commission may adopt



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29 ordinances to do all of the following:

30 (1) Protect and enhance the public health and welfare
31 in the unincorporated area.

32 (2) Regulate the environmental impact of any industry,
33 project, activity, or similar endeavor proposed to be
34 undertaken in the county.

35 (3) Establish and provide for civil penalties for
36 violation of county ordinances.

37 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Covington
38 County Commission may not establish or levy any new tax or
39 raise revenue unless authorized by this constitution or by
40 general or local law.

41 (c) Unless otherwise provided by general or local law
42 in effect upon ratification of this amendment, the Covington
43 County Commission may not exercise any of the powers granted
44 in this amendment inside the corporate limits of any
45 municipality; within any other territory in which a
46 municipality or an instrumentality of a municipality is
47 authorized by an act of the Legislature to exercise the power;
48 or within any other county, except by contract with the
49 municipality, municipality instrumentality, or county
50 affected.

51 Upon ratification of this constitutional amendment, the
52 Code Commissioner shall number and place this amendment as
53 appropriate in the constitution omitting this instructional
54 paragraph and may make the following nonsubstantive revisions:
55 change capitalization, hierarchy, spelling, and punctuation
56 for purposes of style and uniformity; correct manifest



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57 grammatical, clerical, and typographical errors; revise
58 internal or external citations and cross-references; harmonize
59 language; and translate effective dates.

60 END PROPOSED AMENDMENT

61 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment
62 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284, 284.01, and 285
63 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws
64 of this state. The appropriate election official shall assign
65 a ballot number for the proposed constitutional amendment on
66 the election ballot and shall set forth the following
67 description of the substance or subject matter of the proposed
68 constitutional amendment:

69 "Relating to Covington County, proposing an amendment
70 to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to grant the Covington
71 County Commission authority to adopt ordinances to protect
72 public health and welfare; regulate the environmental impact
73 of any industry, project, or activity; and establish and
74 provide for civil penalties.

75 Proposed by Act ____."

76 This description shall be followed by the following
77 language:

78 "Yes() No()."

79 Section 3. The proposed amendment shall become valid as
80 part of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, when approved by
81 a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon.