

**SB155 INTRODUCED**



1 SB155  
2 3PWKCVE-1

3 By Senators Woods, Allen, Waggoner, Roberts, Kitchens,  
4 Shelnut, Sessions, Smitherman, Singleton, Elliott,  
5 Livingston, Coleman-Madison, Williams, Figures, Coleman  
6 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
7 First Read: 14-Jan-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 This bill would establish the Coal-Impacted  
6     Communities Economic and Workforce Development Grant  
7     Program to provide grants to local development  
8     organizations for regional economic and workforce  
9     development initiatives in coal-impacted communities in  
10   the state.

11                This bill would establish the Renewing  
12   Coal-Impacted Communities Act Fund in the State  
13   Treasury for the implementation and operation of the  
14   grant program.

15                This bill would provide for the distribution of  
16   revenues derived from the payment of rent and royalties  
17   of federal coal lease sales in the state.

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20                A BILL

21                TO BE ENTITLED

22                AN ACT

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24                Relating to economic and workforce development; to  
25   establish the Coal-Impacted Communities Economic and Workforce  
26   Development Grant Program to assist local development  
27   organizations with economic and workforce development  
28   initiatives in coal-impacted communities; to provide for the

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29 purposes for which the grant funds may be used; to establish  
30 the Coal-Impacted Communities Economic and Workforce  
31 Development Grant Program Advisory Committee to review  
32 applications and make recommendations; to establish the  
33 Renewing Coal-Impacted Communities Act Fund in the State  
34 Treasury; to provide for the distribution of revenues received  
35 from rent and royalties derived from federal coal lease sales  
36 in the state beginning after January 1, 2027; and to provide  
37 an effective date.

38 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

39         Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
40 the Renewing Coal-Impacted Communities Act.

41         Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares all the  
42 following:

43             (1) The Federal Lands Program regulates coal mining and  
44 reclamation operations on federal lands pursuant to the  
45 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and the  
46 Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA).

47             (2) The United States Department of the Interior Office  
48 of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) collects royalties and  
49 other revenues from coal production on federal lands and pays  
50 a portion of this revenue to the state where the mineral was  
51 extracted.

52             (3) The primary intent of the royalties is to  
53 compensate states that host federal mineral extraction  
54 activities, including the communities most impacted by mineral  
55 extraction. Costs to these communities, include, but are not  
56 limited to, infrastructure, increased demand on public

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57 services, and workforce-related costs.

58 (4) The McDuffie Coal Terminal at the Port of Mobile  
59 serves as the primary export terminal for coal extracted from  
60 federal lands in Alabama, handling the majority of coal  
61 shipped from mining operations in coal-impacted communities.  
62 The movement of coal through the McDuffie Coal Terminal at the  
63 Port of Mobile generates significant economic activity,  
64 creates jobs in transportation and logistics sectors, and  
65 contributes substantial tax revenue to state and local  
66 governments. Infrastructure improvements and maintenance at  
67 the Port of Mobile are essential to maintaining the  
68 competitiveness of Alabama's coal industry, ensuring efficient  
69 market access for coal production, and supporting the broader  
70 economic ecosystem dependent on coal mining activities.

71 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature, by the passage  
72 of this act, to require that all federal funds made available  
73 to the state through 30 U.S.C. § 191(a), be expended within  
74 coal-impacted communities, the Port of Mobile, and the State  
75 General Fund.

76 Section 3. The following words and phrases, whenever  
77 used in this act, have the following meanings:

78 (1) COAL-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES. Areas or jurisdictions  
79 of the state that meet one or more of the following criteria:

80 a. Areas where coal is currently being mined on federal  
81 lands.

82 b. Areas where a significant population of the  
83 workforce is engaged in the mining of coal on federal lands.

84 c. Areas that have experienced substantial economic

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85 impact due to the decline or cessation of coal mining  
86 operations on federal lands.

87 d. Jurisdictions where coal mining on federal lands has  
88 historically been a major source of employment or tax revenue.

89 e. For purposes of this definition, Fayette County,  
90 Jefferson County, Tuscaloosa County, and Walker County are  
91 designated as coal-impacted communities.

92 (2) FUND. The fund created in Section 6 of this act.

93 (3) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION. Any organization  
94 that is determined by the board to meet both of the following  
95 criteria:

96 a. The organization is an Alabama entity not operating  
97 for profit, including, but not limited to, a municipality,  
98 county, industrial development board, industrial development  
99 authority, chamber of commerce, institution of higher  
100 education, or some other foundation or nonprofit organization  
101 charged with improving a community or region of the state.

102 b. The organization has a record of supporting or  
103 otherwise participating in economic or workforce development  
104 in some parts of the state.

105 (4) PERSON. One or more individuals, corporations,  
106 partnerships, associations, legal representatives, mutual  
107 companies, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated  
108 organizations, trustees, bankruptcy, receivers, and  
109 fiduciaries.

110 (5) SECRETARY. The Secretary of the Department of  
111 Workforce.

112 Section 4. (a) The Coal-Impacted Communities Economic



113 and Workforce Development Grant Program is established for the  
114 purpose of awarding grants to eligible local development  
115 organizations for regional economic and workforce development  
116 initiatives in coal-impacted communities in the state.

117 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Workforce shall  
118 implement and administer the grant program.

119 (c) Grant funds awarded under this program may be used  
120 to support coal-impacted communities through:

121 (1) Workforce development and training programs;

122 (2) Quality of place initiatives that enhance community  
123 livability and economic competitiveness;

124 (3) Public works, infrastructure, and public services;

125 (4) Capital improvement that support community  
126 resilience and economic development; and

127 (5) Operations of the Alabama Surface Mining  
128 Commission.

129 Section 5. (a) To ensure that coal-impacted communities  
130 have meaningful input into the expenditure of grant funds, a  
131 Coal-Impacted Communities Economic and Workforce Development  
132 Grant Program Advisory Committee is established to review  
133 applications and make recommendations to the secretary. Each  
134 advisory committee member shall be appointed to a four-year  
135 term and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective  
136 appointing authority. The advisory committee shall meet at  
137 least annually. Additional meetings may be called at the  
138 discretion of the secretary.

139 (b) The committee shall consist of the following  
140 members:



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141 (1) One member appointed by the Governor from a  
142 coal-impacted community.

143 (2) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor  
144 from a coal-impacted community.

145 (3) One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
146 of the Senate from a coal-impacted community.

147 (4) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
148 Representatives from a coal-impacted community.

149 (5) One member appointed by the Fayette County  
150 Legislative Delegation.

151 (6) One member appointed by the Jefferson County  
152 Legislative Delegation.

153 (7) One member appointed by the Tuscaloosa County  
154 Legislative Delegation.

155 (8) One member appointed by the Walker County  
156 Legislative Delegation.

157 (9) The President of the Alabama Mining Association.

158 (c) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
159 appointments to assure the advisory board membership is  
160 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban,  
161 rural, and economic diversity of the state.

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169 beginning after January 1, 2027, or allocated by the  
170 Legislature from other funds for the purposes of this act.  
171 Amounts deposited into the fund shall be budgeted and allotted  
172 in accordance with Sections 41-4-80 through 41-4-96 and  
173 Sections 41-19-1 through 41-19-12, Code of Alabama 1975. All  
174 funds received into the fund shall remain in the fund and not  
175 revert or be expended for any other purposes other than those  
176 set out in this act.

177 (b) The department may retain up to 10 percent of the  
178 total funds allocated for the Coal-Impacted Communities  
179 Economic and Workforce Development Grant Program for actual  
180 expenses relating to administering the program, reimbursing  
181 advisory committee members for necessary expenses incurred in  
182 the performance of their duties, and conducting financial  
183 audits.

184 Section 7. The Secretary of the Department of Workforce  
185 shall adopt rules as necessary to implement and administer the  
186 provisions of this act.

187 Section 8. Notwithstanding any other law to the  
188 contrary, the revenues derived from the payment of rent and  
189 royalties of federal coal lease sales occurring in the state  
190 after January 1, 2027 shall be distributed as follows:

191 (1) The first one million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be  
192 deposited in the State General Fund.

193 (2) The next five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)  
194 shall be distributed to the Alabama State Port Authority for  
195 the McDuffie Coal Terminal at the Port of Mobile.

196 (3) The next two-hundred fifty thousand dollars

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197        (\$250,000) shall be distributed to the Alabama Surface Mining  
198        Commission.

199                (4) The remaining revenues shall be deposited in the  
200        Renewing Coal-Impacted Communities Act Fund and shall be used  
201        by the department to award grants to eligible local  
202        development organizations pursuant to the provisions of this  
203        act.

204                Section 9. This act shall become effective on October  
205        1, 2026.