

**SB228 ENROLLED**



1 SB228  
2 DGW8ENN-2  
3 By Senator Givhan  
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 29-Jan-26



**SB228 Enrolled**

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 Relating to the Alabama Space Authority; to amend  
5 Sections 41-23-170, 41-23-171, 41-23-173, and 41-23-174, Code  
6 of Alabama 1975, to rename the authority the Alabama Aerospace  
7 and Defense Authority; to increase the membership of the  
8 authority; and to further provide for the duties and powers of  
9 the authority.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. Sections 41-23-170, 41-23-171, 41-23-173,  
12 and 41-23-174 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 "§41-23-170

15 There is ~~hereby~~ established the Alabama Space  
16 Authority. Commencing on October 1, 2026, the name of the  
17 Alabama Space Authority shall be the Alabama Aerospace and  
18 Defense Authority, and all rights, duties, property, real or  
19 personal, and all other effects existing in the name of the  
20 Alabama Space Authority, or in any other name by which the  
21 authority has been known, shall continue in the name of the  
22 Alabama Aerospace and Defense Authority. Any existing or  
23 future reference to the Alabama Space Authority, or any other  
24 name by which the authority has been known, in any existing  
25 law, contract, or other instrument, shall constitute a  
26 reference to the Alabama Aerospace and Defense Authority."

27 "§41-23-171

28 The authority shall be composed of ~~a~~ all of the



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29 following members:

30 (1) A representative of the University of Alabama in  
31 Huntsville, selected by the President of the University of  
32 Alabama in Huntsville,~~the.~~

33 (2) The Director of the Auburn University Aviation  
34 Center,~~the~~ or his or her designee.

35 (3) The President of Alabama Agricultural and  
36 Mechanical University,~~the~~ or his or her designee.

37 (4) The Secretary of the Alabama Department of  
38 Commerce,~~the~~ or his or her designee.

39 (5) The Director of the Alabama Department of Economic  
40 and Community Affairs,~~the~~ or his or her designee.

41 (6) The Director of the Department of Transportation,  
42 and~~six other~~ or his or her designee.

43 (7) The Finance Director, or his or her designee.

44 (8) The Secretary of Workforce, or his or her designee.

45 (9)a. Five members~~to be~~ selected from the aerospace,  
46 aviation, and related industries, or~~persons~~ individuals  
47 having knowledge or interest in space technology, according to  
48 the following manner: (i) One member appointed by the  
49 Governor,~~the Finance Director,~~; (ii) two members appointed by  
50 the Speaker of the House of Representatives,; and (iii) two  
51 members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

52 b. An appointed member of the authority shall serve a  
53 term concurrent with his or her appointing authority and at  
54 the pleasure of the appointing authority. Any vacancy in an  
55 appointed position shall be filled by the original appointing  
56 authority.



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57           (10) The Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space and  
58 Rocket Center Commission, or his or her designee, who shall  
59 serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of the authority."

60           "§41-23-173

61           (a) The authority shall have the following duties:

62           (1) Encourage the education and training of aerospace  
63 professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and to develop  
64 new methods and technologies for the exploration of space.

65           (2) Promote new space exploration, space tourism, and  
66 spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate,  
67 academic, public, and private innovation infrastructures.

68           (3) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business  
69 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders  
70 and public officials.

71           (4) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and  
72 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship  
73 and expand space enterprise.

74           (5) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small  
75 business incubator programs, and other initiatives to  
76 stimulate economic development and innovation within the  
77 aerospace and space systems communities.

78           (6) Perform a study on the feasibility of securing  
79 approval for the State of Alabama to have a federally licensed  
80 spaceport.

81           (7) Encourage space research and education centers to  
82 support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

83           (8) Work with the Department of Tourism, the ~~Alabama~~  
84 U.S. Space Science Exhibit and Rocket Center Commission, and



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85 other public agencies to communicate the multiple scientific,  
86 educational, and commercial benefits of space exploration and  
87 the legacy of Alabama's contributions to America's space  
88 program to the public and to promote space tourism and  
89 training.

90 (9) Develop strategies to promote and encourage private  
91 investments in furtherance of this article.

92 (10) Perform any other actions necessary or convenient  
93 to carry out its purposes and to exercise its powers pursuant  
94 to this article to the extent permitted by law.

95 (b) The authority shall establish procedures for  
96 conducting its affairs in execution of the duties and  
97 responsibilities stated in this article, which operating  
98 procedures shall include appropriate operational guidelines.  
99 The authority may establish committees to conduct the work of  
100 the authority and the committees may include nonmembers as  
101 deemed appropriate by the authority."

102 "§41-23-174

103 For the purpose of accomplishing the duties enumerated  
104 in Section 41-23-173, the authority shall have the following  
105 powers:

106 (1) To acquire by purchase or gift any real, personal,  
107 or mixed property necessary or convenient in connection with  
108 the purpose for which the authority is formed and to hold  
109 title to such property, together with all rights incidental to  
110 its estate in such property.

111 (2) To lease all or any part of the facilities or  
112 property of the authority to any person and, from time to



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113 time, fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals under such  
114 leases.

115 (3) To adopt bylaws and policies, as approved by ADECA,  
116 to administer this article, including any bylaws necessary to  
117 meet the future needs of aerospace and spaceport  
118 infrastructure and capabilities in this state. Upon the  
119 adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw or policy, the  
120 authority shall provide a copy to the Legislative Council for  
121 review.

122 (4) To make, enter into, and execute contracts,  
123 agreements, leases, and other instruments with public and  
124 private entities, and to take such other actions as may be  
125 necessary or convenient to accomplish any purpose for which  
126 the authority was organized or to exercise any power granted  
127 under this article.

128 (5) To accept gifts, loans, and grants to expend in  
129 taking any action not specifically prohibited by this article  
130 in furtherance of the purposes of this article."

131 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
132 1, 2026.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 10-Feb-26

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Amended and passed: 26-Feb-26

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Senate concurred in House amendment 03-Mar-26

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By: Senator Givhan