

## SB250 INTRODUCED



1 SB250  
2 DGXFGHN-1  
3 By Senators Barfoot, Sessions  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
5 First Read: 03-Feb-26



## 4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the Alabama Indian Affairs  
6 Commission has seven representatives from the seven  
7 recognized Indian tribes, bands, or groups in the  
8 state.

9 This bill would increase the number of tribes in  
10 the State of Alabama that are represented on the  
11 commission and recognize two additional tribes in the  
12 state.

13 Under existing law, the commission may seek and  
14 receive grants, funds, and other benefits from the  
15 federal government.

16 This bill would authorize the commission to also  
17 seek and receive appropriations and other funds from  
18 the state.

19 This bill would provide that the commission may  
20 not be compelled to provide certain tribal records to  
21 membership organizations.

22 This bill would provide for the salary of the  
23 executive director of the commission and set age and  
24 residency requirements for the executive director.

25 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,  
26 technical revisions to update the existing code  
27 language to current style.



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A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission; to amend Sections 41-9-708, 41-9-710, 41-9-713, and 41-9-714, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the number of tribes represented on the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission; to recognize additional tribes in the state; to provide further for the powers and duties of the commission; to provide for the salary of the executive director of the commission; to provide requirements for the executive director of the commission; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 41-9-708, 41-9-710, 41-9-713, and 41-9-714, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§41-9-708

(a) ~~There is hereby created and established the~~The Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, hereinafter called the commission, is created and established. ~~which~~The commission shall be administered under the direction and supervision of the Joint Committee on Administrative Regulations, as provided by Section 41-22-22.

(b) (1) The commission shall be composed of at least 11 members. All members of the commission must reside in Alabama.



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Members shall include a member of the State Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor~~;~~ ~~and~~ a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives~~;~~ ~~seven~~nine Indian representatives from the ~~seven~~nine tribes, bands, or groups in the State of Alabama, appointed by the Governor~~;~~ one Alabama resident, appointed by the commission; and one member ~~at-large~~at-large, appointed by the Governor.

(2) The ~~Governor shall appoint seven~~nine Indian members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed from recommendations submitted by each of the ~~seven~~nine Indian tribes, bands, or groups, principally geographically located as follows: The Poarch Band of Creeks~~of Escambia County~~, one member; the Mowa Band of Choctaws of southwest Alabama, one member; the ~~Star Clan of Muscogee Creeks of Pike County~~Southeast Mvskoke Nation, one member; the Echota Cherokees of Alabama, one member; the Cherokees of northeast Alabama, one member; the ~~Cherokees of southeast Alabama~~Chero-Creek Intratribal Indians, one member; the Piqua Shawnee Tribe of Alabama, one member; the United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation, one member; and the Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama, one member. Each of the ~~seven~~nine identified groups shall have one member appointed to the commission.

(3) The ~~commission shall appoint one~~ Alabama resident appointed by the commission shall be~~, who is~~ a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, band, or group, that is~~and~~ not a member of any tribe represented on this commission.



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(4) The ~~Governor shall appoint~~ one member ~~at~~  
~~large~~at-large appointed by the Governor, ~~who~~ may be Indian or  
non-Indian~~;. provided, however, However, that~~ the majority of  
the members of the commission shall always be Indian.

(5) All above stated tribes, bands, and groups shall be  
state recognized upon passage of this article. The commission  
~~shall have the power to~~may recognize additional Indian tribes,  
bands, or groups. The commission shall adopt appropriate  
procedure for ~~such~~the recognition process. Any recognized  
Indian tribe, band, or group shall be entitled to have one  
representative on the commission who shall be appointed by the  
Governor for an initial term of three years ~~by the Governor~~  
and subject thereafter to the same requirements and privileges  
as ~~specified in subsections (b) and (c) and any other~~  
~~applicable sections~~the members described in subdivision (2),  
and this ~~Said~~ member shall be granted the same voting powers  
accorded other members.

(c) The commission shall elect a ~~chairman~~chair of the  
commission from among its members. Members serving by virtue  
of their office within state government shall serve so long as  
they hold that office. The terms of office for all other  
members shall be for four years each, except for the initial  
appointments which shall be as follows: Four members for two  
years; two members for three years; and two members for four  
years. The initial term of office for ~~persons~~individuals who  
are granted membership upon the recognition of their tribe,  
band, or group by the commission shall be as provided in  
~~subsection~~subdivision (b) (5). The initial term and all



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subsequent terms of office of the member representing the Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama shall be four years. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is appointed. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. Upon the death, disability, resignation, removal, or refusal to serve of any member, the Governor shall appoint a qualified member of that tribe, band, or group to fill the unexpired term of office.

(d) The ~~chairman~~chair shall submit any written complaint of any tribal body that appoints members to the commission, or any written complaint of any other appointing authority that any ~~commissioner~~member is negligent in the performance of his or her commission duties to the Governor for review. After reviewing the complaint, if the Governor determines the ~~commission~~member has been negligent, the Governor may remove the ~~commissioner~~member from the commission and appoint a successor as provided in this section."

"§41-9-710

(a) ~~It shall be the duty of the commission to~~The  
commission shall:

(1) ~~study~~Study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble, and disseminate information on any aspect of Indian affairs;

(2) ~~to investigate~~Investigate relief needs of Indians of Alabama and ~~to~~ provide technical assistance in the preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs;

(3) ~~to confer~~Confer with appropriate officials of local, state, and federal governments and agencies of those



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concerned with Indian affairs to encourage and implement coordination of applicable resources to meet the needs of Indians in Alabama;

(4) ~~to cooperate~~ Cooperate with and secure the assistance of the local, state, and federal governments or any agencies thereof in formulating ~~any such~~ programs for Indians in Alabama; ~~and~~

(5) ~~to coordinate~~ Coordinate ~~such~~ programs for Indians in Alabama with ~~any program~~ federal programs regarding Indian affairs ~~adopted or planned by the federal government to the end so~~ that the ~~Alabama Indian Affairs Commission~~ commission ~~secure~~ secures the full benefit of ~~such the~~ programs;

(6) ~~provided, however, that such commission is hereby authorized to directly seek and receive from the federal government any grants, funds or other benefits which may be available for Indians; to review~~ Review all proposed or pending legislation and amendments to existing state legislation affecting Indians in Alabama; and

(7) ~~to conduct~~ Conduct public hearings on matters relating to Indian affairs.

(b) The commission may directly seek and receive from the federal or state government any appropriations, grants, funds, or other benefits which may be available for Indians.

(c) The commission shall not be compelled to provide any tribal roles, genealogy, or membership information of its recognized tribes to any membership organization."

"§41-9-713

The commission shall hire an executive director for the



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commission. The commission shall fix the executive director's salary, and the salary shall be limited to the maximum step authorized for pay grade 84 of the personnel Merit System pay plan, as provided by the State Personnel Board under Section 36-6-5. The executive director shall be at least 30 years of age and shall have been a citizen and resident of this state for at least five years prior to employment. ~~Such~~The executive director shall serve as secretary of the commission and as chief administrator and executive officer of the commission, having general charge of the work of the commission under its direction~~7. and~~The executive director shall hire ~~such~~ other personnel as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this article. The executive director shall always serve at the discretion of the commission."

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