

**SB358 INTRODUCED**



1 SB358  
2 HGPHQ68-1  
3 By Senator Albritton  
4 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development  
5 First Read: 10-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would authorize certain county commissions to establish regulations related to the permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms.

This bill would also provide penalties for violations and provide for an appeal process.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to counties and municipalities; to authorize certain county commission to establish regulations related to the permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms; to provide penalties for violations; and to provide for an appeal process.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) COUNTY COMMISSION. The governing body of any county that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

(2) SOLAR FARM. A large-scale, ground-mounted installation of photovoltaic panels, arrays, or reflectors



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29 designed to generate electricity for sale or use off-site.

30 (b) (1) In order to protect the coastline and watershed,  
31 a county commission may adopt resolutions to regulate the  
32 permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar  
33 farms in the county.

34 (2) A county commission may adopt resolutions  
35 establishing standards, specifications, criteria, and  
36 conditions relating to permitting, construction, placement, or  
37 operation of solar farms in the unincorporated areas of the  
38 county.

39 (3) A county commission may adopt resolutions to  
40 establish and determine the appropriate locations where solar  
41 farms may be located or allowed or to prohibit the same.

42 (c) (1) If any building or structure is erected,  
43 constructed, altered, repaired, converted, operated, or  
44 maintained, or if any land is used, in violation of this  
45 section or any resolution adopted pursuant to this section,  
46 the county commission, or any administrative officer  
47 designated by the county commission, may institute any  
48 appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, restrain,  
49 correct, or abate the violation, prevent the use of any  
50 building or structure, or to prevent any illegal act, conduct,  
51 business, or misuse in or upon any premises regulated under  
52 the authority conferred by this section.

53 (2) A county commission may adopt resolutions providing  
54 for a penalty in the form of a fine of up to one thousand  
55 dollars (\$1,000) for any violation of this section or an  
56 ordinance adopted pursuant to this section.



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57 (3) Any violation of this section or an ordinance  
58 adopted pursuant to this section shall be a public nuisance.

59 (4) Upon a finding that a building or structure  
60 violates the provisions of this section or any ordinance  
61 adopted pursuant to this section, the county commission may  
62 remove the building or structure, and all costs of the removal  
63 shall be assessed against the landowner and recorded as a lien  
64 on the property and may be enforced until satisfied.

65 (d) A county commission may levy permit and  
66 applications fees to administer the resolutions adopted  
67 pursuant to this section. The fees shall cover the cost of  
68 administrative activities and the cost of reviewing  
69 applications, including the costs or fees associated with any  
70 experts or consultants necessary to assist the county in  
71 reviewing applications.

72 (e) A county commission may adopt resolutions to  
73 determine the terms or conditions of any exceptions or  
74 exemptions from the provisions of this section or any  
75 resolution adopted pursuant to this section. Any resolution  
76 adopted pursuant to this section shall authorize a variance  
77 process and a variance appeals process for any party aggrieved  
78 by a final variance decision of the county commission to  
79 appeal the decision to the circuit court.

80 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
81 1, 2026.