- 1 SB527
- 2 141025-1
- 3 By Senator Ward
- 4 RFD: Energy and Natural Resources
- 5 First Read: 17-APR-12

Τ	141025-1:n	:04/16/2012:MCS/tan LRS2012-2512
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8	SYNOPSIS:	This bill would encourage the use of motor
9		vehicles powered by compressed natural gas,
10		liquefied natural gas, propane, or electricity by a
11		series of incentives for the acquisition of such
12		vehicles and for the installation of refueling
13		equipment. This bill would also encourage the
14		in-state production of biodiesel and cellulosic
15		ethanol.
16		This bill would make legislative findings.
17		This bill would create an incentive for the
18		in-state production of biodiesel and cellulosic
19		ethanol, in an amount to be paid quarterly in a
20		program administered by the Center for Alternative
21		Fuels within the Department of Agriculture and
22		Industries. The payments made under this provision
23		would expire after five years.
24		This bill would limit the liability of
25		providers of refueling equipment used by certain
26		alternative fuel vehicles.

This bill would exempt certain alternative

fuel vehicles from the payment of tolls on toll

roads, bridges, and tunnels owned by the Alabama

Toll Road, Bridge, and Tunnel Authority.

This bill would prohibit insurance companies from imposing a surcharge on certain alternative fuel vehicles.

This bill would allow the Department of Transportation to designate certain roads as high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, subject to federal limitations, and would allow certain alternative fuel and other vehicles to use such lanes. This bill would impose penalties for the unauthorized use of such lanes.

This bill would provide that no person would be required to install electric vehicle charging stations. This bill would provide that providers of electric vehicle charging stations would not, merely for that reason, be found to be engaging in the retail sale of electricity. This bill would provide that electric suppliers would be permitted to provide electric vehicle charging stations. This bill would provide that the Public Service Commission would have no jurisdiction over the rates, charges, and fees for electric vehicle charging stations.

2	credit of no more than \$1,500 for certain
3	alternative fuel vehicles, limited to 5,000
4	vehicles per fuel type. This bill would allow an
5	income tax credit for placing in service refueling
6	equipment for certain alternative fuel vehicles,
7	limited to the lower of 30 percent of the cost of
8	such equipment, or dollar limits based on the type
9	of fuel. As to both credits, unused credits could
10	be carried forward for five years. Both credits
11	would expire five years after the effective date of
12	the provisions.
13	This bill would allow the various
14	departments, agencies, and centers with
15	administrative duties to promulgate regulations to
16	implement this bill, would provide for the
17	severance of invalid or unconstitutional
18	provisions, would repeal any conflicting laws, and
19	would provide an effective date.
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21	A BILL
22	TO BE ENTITLED
23	AN ACT
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This bill would allow for an income tax

To encourage the use of motor vehicles powered by compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane, or

electricity by a series of incentives for the acquisition of 1 2 such vehicles and for the installation of refueling equipment; to encourage the in-state production of biodiesel and 3 4 cellulosic ethanol; to make legislative findings; to create an 5 incentive for the in-state production of biodiesel and 6 cellulosic ethanol, in an amount to be paid quarterly in a 7 program administered by the Center for Alternative Fuels within the Department of Agriculture and Industries; to 8 9 provide that such payments would expire after five years; to 10 limit the liability of providers of refueling equipment used 11 by certain alternative fuel vehicles; to amend Section 23-2-150, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt certain alternative 12 13 fuel vehicles from the payment of tolls on toll roads, bridges, and tunnels owned by the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge, 14 15 and Tunnel Authority; to prohibit insurance companies from 16 imposing a surcharge on certain alternative fuel vehicles; to 17 allow the Department of Transportation to designate certain 18 roads as high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, subject to federal limitations; to allow certain alternative fuel and 19 20 other vehicles to use such lanes; to impose penalties for the 21 unauthorized use of such lanes; to provide that no person 22 would be required to install electric vehicle charging 23 stations; to provide that providers of electric vehicle 24 charging stations would not, merely for that reason, be found 25 to be engaging in the retail sale of electricity; to provide 26 that electric suppliers would be permitted to provide electric vehicle charging stations; to provide that the Public Service Commission would have no jurisdiction over the rates, charges, and fees for electric vehicle charging stations; to allow for an income tax credit of no more than \$1,500 for certain alternative fuel vehicles, limited to 5,000 vehicles per fuel type; to allow an income tax credit for placing in service refueling equipment for certain alternative fuel vehicles, limited to the lower of 30 percent of the cost of such equipment, or dollar limits based on the type of fuel; to provide that, as to both income tax credits, unused credits could be carried forward for five years; to provide that both credits would expire five years after the effective date of the provisions; to allow the various departments, agencies, and centers with administrative duties to promulgate regulations to implement this bill; to provide for the severance of invalid or unconstitutional provisions; to repeal any conflicting laws; and to provide an effective date. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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Section 1. The Legislature makes the following findings:

- (1) It is in the best interest of the state to encourage the use of compressed natural gas, propane, and electricity to power vehicles within the state.
- (2) New technologies require monetary and other incentives for the purchase of such vehicles and the installation of refueling stations for such vehicles.

1 (3) It is in the best interest of the state to
2 encourage the production of biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol
3 in the state, both as an economic development incentive and to
4 lower the price of those fuels in Alabama.

Section 2. A new Chapter 33 is added to Title 2, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§2-33-1.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) BIODIESEL. A diesel fuel substitute for motor vehicle fuel which is derived from non-petroleum renewable resources and any blending components derived from non-petroleum renewable resources, provided that only the renewable fuel portion of any such blending component shall be considered part of the applicable volume, and further provided that the fuel meets the appropriate American Society of Testing and Materials Standards (ASTM).
- (2) BIODIESEL PAYMENT AMOUNT. For any given quarter, nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000).
- (3) CELLULOSIC ETHANOL. An ethanol fuel for motor vehicle fuel which is derived from lignocellulosic, hemicellulosic, or cellulosic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, provided that the fuel meets the appropriate American Society of Testing and Materials Standards (ASTM).

- (4) CELLULOSIC ETHANOL PAYMENT AMOUNT. For any given quarter, one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,250,000), less the amount actually paid during the immediately preceding quarter pursuant to Section 2-33-2(b)(8).
- 6 (5) CENTER. The Center for Alternative Fuels, as
  7 established within the Department of Agriculture and
  8 Industries by Article 5, commencing with Section 2-2-90, of
  9 Chapter 2 of this title.
  - (6) COMMERCIAL PRODUCER. A person who has the capacity to produce at least 10 million gallons per year of biodiesel or cellulosic ethanol at a facility in Alabama and who has made capital improvements or investments in such facility totaling at least ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) within the past 120 months of the beginning of any given quarter for which the person intends to apply for a payment.
  - (7) PERSON. The meaning ascribed to such term in Section 40-18-1.
  - (8) QUARTERS. Those three-month periods beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.

21 \$2-33-2.

(a) The center is authorized to make quarterly payments to commercial producers for the production of biodiesel or cellulosic ethanol in Alabama as provided in this section.

(b) (1) Each commercial producer of biodiesel who wishes to receive payments under this section shall file an application with the center, on a form prescribed by the center, showing the number of gallons of Alabama biodiesel which the commercial producer expects in good faith to sell in the upcoming quarter. The applications required by this subdivision shall be due at the center on the fifteenth day of December, March, June, and July for the respective quarters beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.

- (2) Following the due date for applications provided in subdivision (1), the center shall divide the biodiesel payment amount by the aggregate number of gallons of Alabama biodiesel which was shown on all of the applications timely filed pursuant to subdivision (1).
- (3) The minimum amount which shall be paid for each gallon of biodiesel produced by each commercial producer who timely filed an application pursuant to subdivision (1) shall be the lesser of twenty cents (\$0.20) per gallon, or the amount determined in subdivision (2).
- (4) The center shall post on its website the amount determined in subdivision (3), a list of the commercial producers who filed applications pursuant to subdivision (1), and the gallons of Alabama biodiesel each commercial producer expects in good faith to sell in the quarter.

commercial producer of biodiesel who timely filed an application pursuant to subdivision (1) shall file a report with the center, on a form prescribed by the center, showing the number of gallons of Alabama biodiesel which the commercial producer actually sold in the quarter. No commercial producer shall report any sales which exceed the number of gallons of biodiesel reported by the commercial producer on the application filed pursuant to subdivision (1). The reports prescribed by this subdivision shall be due at the center on the fifteenth day of April, July, October, and January for the respective quarters beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.

- (6) Following the due date for the reports provided in subdivision (5), the center shall divide the biodiesel payment amount by the aggregate number of gallons of biodiesel which was shown on all of the reports properly filed pursuant to subdivision (5).
- (7) The amount which shall actually be paid for each gallon of biodiesel sold by each commercial producer who timely filed a report pursuant to subdivision (5) shall be the lesser of twenty cents (\$0.20) per gallon, or the amount determined in subdivision (6).
- (8) The center shall post on its website the amount determined in subdivision (7), a list of the commercial producers who timely filed reports pursuant to subdivision

(5), the gallons of Alabama biodiesel they actually sold, and the amount to be paid to each commercial producer. The center shall make the payments to the commercial producers of biodiesel by the last day of April, July, October, and January for the respective quarters beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.

- (9) No commercial producer shall receive any payment for biodiesel which is not produced in Alabama by the commercial producer, which is sold to a person related to the commercial producer, or which is sold for use outside the United States.
- ethanol who wishes to receive payments under this section shall file a report with the center, on a form prescribed by the center, showing the number of gallons of Alabama cellulosic ethanol which the commercial producer actually sold in the quarter. The reports prescribed by this subdivision shall be due at the center on the fifteenth day of April, July, October, and January for the respective quarters beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.
- (2) The center shall divide the cellulosic ethanol payment amount by the aggregate number of gallons of cellulosic ethanol which was shown on all of the reports timely filed pursuant to subdivision (1).

(3) The amount which shall actually be paid for each gallon of cellulosic ethanol sold by each commercial producer who timely filed a report pursuant to subdivision (1) shall be the amount determined in subdivision (2).

- (4) The center shall post on its website the amount determined in subdivision (3), a list of the commercial producers who timely filed reports pursuant to subdivision (1), the gallons of Alabama cellulosic ethanol they actually sold, and the amount to be paid to each commercial producer. The center shall make the payments to the commercial producers of cellulosic ethanol by the last day of April, July, October, and January for the respective quarters beginning on the first day of January, April, July, and October.
- (5) No commercial producer shall receive any payment amount for cellulosic ethanol which is not produced in Alabama by the commercial producer, which is sold to a person related to the commercial producer, or which is sold for use outside the United States.
- (d) A commercial producer who submits an application pursuant to this section for any given quarter is under no obligation to submit an application pursuant to this section for any other quarter.
- (e) The payments provided for in this chapter are available only during the five-year period beginning on the effective date of this chapter.

Section 3. A new Section 6-5-345 is added to Article 18, commencing with Section 6-5-330, of Chapter 5 of Title 6, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§6-5-345.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no person who provides refueling equipment for permitted vehicles, as such terms are defined in Section 40-18-301, whether with or without cost, shall be subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution as a result of his or her acts or omissions arising out of the provision of such equipment, so long as such equipment complied with any building codes applicable to the installation of such equipment.

Section 4. Section 23-2-150, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"\$23-2-150.

"The authority is hereby authorized to fix, revise, charge, and collect tolls for the use of each toll road, bridge or tunnel project and the different parts or sections thereof, and to contract with, or to lease to or from, any person, partnership, association or corporation desiring the use of any part thereof, including the right-of-way adjoining the paved portion of approaches and access highways, streets or roads for placing thereon telephone, telegraph, electric light or power lines or pipe lines for gas and water or for petroleum products or for any other purpose except for tracks

for railroad or railway use and to fix the terms, conditions, 1 2 rents, and rates of charges for such use. Tolls shall be so fixed and adjusted as to carry out and perform the terms and 3 4 provisions of any contract with or for the benefit of 5 bondholders. Tolls shall not be subject to supervision or 6 regulation by any other commission, board, bureau or agency of 7 the state. The use and disposition of tolls and revenues shall be subject to the provisions of the resolution authorizing the 8 9 issuance of such bonds or of the trust agreement securing the 10 bond issue. Notwithstanding any provision in this article, the 11 authority shall not charge a toll for any vehicle which bears the decal provided for by Section 32-5A-340; provided, 12 13 however, that this exemption shall apply to a toll road, bridge, or tunnel project in service as of the effective date 14 15 of the act adding this amendatory language only upon the retirement or refunding of the bonded indebtedness outstanding 16 17 on the effective date of the act adding this amendatory language." 18 19

Section 5. A new Article 6 is added to Chapter 13 of Title 27, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: \$27-13-150.

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- (a) As used in this section, the term "permitted vehicle" shall have the meaning given by Section 40-18-301.
- (b) Any rates, rating schedules, or rating manuals submitted to or filed with the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance for private passenger automobile liability

insurance and private passenger automobile physical damage insurance shall not include a surcharge on the premium for such insurance written on a permitted vehicle.

Section 6. A new Article 16 is added to Chapter 5A of Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: \$32-5A-350.

- (a) As used in this section, "HOV lane" shall mean a lane of a public roadway designated as a high occupancy vehicle lane by the Department of Transportation.
- (b) The Department of Transportation may designate any travel lane on any road in the state highway system as an HOV lane; provided, however, that where such designation has been made, the road shall be appropriately marked with traffic signs or other roadway markers or markings to inform the traveling public of the existence of such HOV lane and of the restrictions imposed.
- (c) The Department of Transportation, by regulation, may determine the types of vehicles that are allowed to use HOV lanes because of the reduced emissions of the vehicles or because of the type of fuel used to power the vehicles; provided that such regulations shall comply with 23 U.S.C. Section 166 and the regulations promulgated thereunder. In furtherance thereof, the following shall be applicable:
- (1) The Department of Transportation shall issue a decal and registration certificate, to be renewed annually, reflecting the HOV lane designation on such vehicles and may

charge a fee, as determined by regulation, which shall not exceed the costs of designing, producing, and distributing each decal, or five dollars (\$5), whichever is less.

- (2) In promulgating such regulations, the Department of Transportation shall encourage, to the full extent allowed by federal law, the use of low emission and energy efficient vehicles and inherently low emission vehicles.
- (d) Except as provided in subsection (e), no person may operate a vehicle in an HOV lane if the vehicle is occupied by fewer than the number of occupants indicated by a traffic sign or other roadway marker or marking.
- (e) As to vehicles which are allowed to be operated in an HOV lane pursuant to subsection (c), no person may operate such a vehicle in an HOV lane if the vehicle fails to display the decal required by subsection (c).
- regulations to implement this article. The Department of Transportation shall finalize the regulations provided in subsection (c), and shall make available the decals provided in subsection (c) within 180 days of the effective date of this article; provided, however, that this sentence shall not prevent the Department of Transportation from thereafter making amendments to such regulations.

Section 7. A new Article 7 is added to Chapter 4, Title 37, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: \$37-4-160.

- 1 (a) For purposes of this article, the following 2 terms shall have the following meanings:
- 3 (1) COMMISSION. The Public Service Commission 4 established by this title.

- (2) ELECTRIC SUPPLIER. Any municipality, municipally owned utility or other governmental entity, any cooperative, corporation, person, firm, association, or other entity engaged in the business of supplying electric service at retail.
- 10 (3) ELECTRIC VEHICLE. A motor vehicle with at least
  11 four wheels which:
  - a. Is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways.
  - b. Is rated at not more than 26,000 pounds unloaded gross vehicle weight.
    - c. Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor which draws electricity from a battery which has a capacity of not less than four kilowatt hours and is capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity.
  - (4) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION. Equipment which supplies electricity for the recharging of electric vehicles, including an electric vehicle charging station, an electric recharging point, a charging point, electric vehicle supply equipment, or electric vehicle charging equipment.

1 (b) The installation of electric vehicle charging 2 stations is voluntary. No business entity, corporation, 3 individual, municipality, county, public utility, or other 4 person shall be required or mandated to install an electric 5 vehicle charging station.

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- (c)(1) The provision of electricity from an electric vehicle charging station by a person who is not an electric supplier shall not constitute the retail sale of electricity if:
- a. The electric vehicle charging station is capable of being used solely for recharging an electric vehicle.
- b. The person providing the electric vehicle charging station has procured the furnished electricity lawfully.
- c. The person providing the electric vehicle charging station determines the amount charged for the use of the station by some measure other than the amount of electricity consumed.
- (2) The provision of an electric vehicle charging station by an electric supplier:
  - a. Shall be a permitted electric utility activity.
- b. Shall not affect the utility status of the electric supplier or otherwise bestow utility status on such supplier.

(d) The commission shall have no jurisdiction over 1 2 the rates, charges, and fees for the provision of an electric vehicle charging service. 3 4 Section 8. A new Article 12 is added to Chapter 18 5 of Title 40, Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows: 6 §40-18-310. (a) As used in this section, the following terms 7 shall have the following meanings: 8 (1) INCOME TAX. The tax levied in Article 1 of this 9 10 chapter. 11 (2) MANUFACTURER. The term has the meaning given in regulations prescribed by the Administrator of the United 12 13 States Environmental Protection Agency for purposes of the 14 administration of Title II of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 15 7521 et seq.). (3) MODIFIED VEHICLE. A motor vehicle with at least 16 17 four wheels which: 18 a. Was manufactured primarily for use on public 19 streets, roads, and highways. 20 b. Is owned by the taxpayer. 21 c. Is registered in this state. 22 d. On or after October 1, 2012, is modified by the 23 installation of equipment which is certified by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency so that the vehicle is

propelled to a significant extent by a specified engine.

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(4) QUALIFIED VEHICLE. A motor vehicle with at least 1 four wheels which: 2 a. Is manufactured by a manufacturer. 3 b. Is manufactured primarily for use on public 4 5 streets, roads, and highways. 6 c. Has not been modified from original manufacturer 7 specifications. d. Has an original use commencing with the taxpayer. 8 9 e. Is acquired by the taxpayer on or after October 10 1, 2012. 11 f. Is acquired for use or lease by the taxpayer and 12 not for resale. 13 q. Is acquired in this state from a seller who has 14 previously registered for participation herein with the 15 department. 16 h. Is acquired for registration in this state. 17 i. Is propelled to a significant extent by a 18 specified engine. (5) SPECIFIED ENGINE. Any one of the following: 19 20 a. A motor powered by compressed natural gas. 21 b. A motor powered by liquefied natural gas. 22 c. A motor powered by liquefied petroleum gas. 23 d. A motor which draws electricity from a battery 24 which has a capacity of not less than four kilowatt hours and

is capable of being recharged from an external source of

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electricity.

(b) A nonrefundable credit against income tax shall be allowed for the acquisition of a qualified vehicle or the placing in service of a modified vehicle. As to qualified vehicles, the credit allowed under this section shall equal the lesser of 100 percent of the cost of the qualified vehicle, or one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). As to modified vehicles, the credit allowed under this section shall equal the lesser of 100 percent of the cost of the modifications, or one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

- (c) Upon the acquisition of a qualified vehicle, the taxpayer shall be provided with a certificate from the seller certifying that the vehicle is eligible for the credit provided in this section. A copy of such certificate shall be submitted by the taxpayer to the department with the return on which the taxpayer claims such credit. On the same day as the acquisition, the seller shall submit to the department a copy of such certificate. Such certificate shall be of a form approved by the department. The department, by regulation, shall implement a system for the receipt of certificates as to modified vehicles.
- (d) Within 10 days of the receipt of 5,000 certificates for qualified vehicles or modified vehicles using any one type of specified engine, the department shall notify all sellers that, effective on the following day, the credit provided by this section shall no longer be available for qualified vehicles or modified vehicles using such type of

specified engine, and the department shall accept no additional certificates as to such type of specified engine, but shall continue to accept certificates for any other unexpired types of specified engines. Any seller which thereafter issues certificates as to such manufacturer shall be guilty of submitting a fraudulent return and shall be liable to the taxpayer for the amount of the tax credit, plus punitive damages. The department, by regulation, shall implement a system for notifications as to modified vehicles.

- (e) Should the credit allowed by this section exceed the amount of income tax otherwise owed, the taxpayer may carry the credit forward to each of the five years following the tax year that the credit was originally to be allowed. Various credits carried forward are considered to be applied in the order of the tax years for which such credits were first allowed, beginning with the credit for the earliest tax year.
- (f) Except as provided in subsection (e), the credit provided for in this section shall be allowed only during the five-year period beginning on the effective date of this article.
- (g) The department may promulgate regulations for the administration of this article.

\$40-18-301.

(a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 1 (1) INCOME TAX. The tax levied in Article 1 of this chapter.
- 3 (2) PERMITTED VEHICLE. A motor vehicle with at least 4 four wheels which:
- 5 a. Is manufactured primarily for use on public 6 streets, roads, and highways.
- 5 b. Is propelled to a significant extent by one of
  8 the following:
- 9 1. A motor powered by compressed natural gas,
  10 liquefied natural gas, or liquefied petroleum gas.

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- 2. A motor which draws electricity from a battery
  which has a capacity of not less than four kilowatt hours and
  is capable of being recharged from an external source of
  electricity.
  - (3) REFUELING EQUIPMENT. Equipment which supplies fuel or electricity for the refueling or recharging of permitted vehicles.
  - (b) A nonrefundable credit against income tax shall be allowed for the placement in service of refueling equipment, the original use of which commences with the taxpayer. The credit allowed under this section shall equal the lesser of 30 percent of the cost of the refueling equipment or the following:
- 24 (1) For refueling equipment for compressed natural gas, five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

1 (2) For refueling equipment for liquefied petroleum 2 gas, two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

- (3) For refueling equipment for electricity, five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (c) Should the credit allowed by this section exceed the amount of income tax otherwise owed, the taxpayer may carry the credit forward to each of the five years following the tax year that the credit was originally to be allowed. Various credits carried forward are considered to be applied in the order of the tax years for which such credits were first allowed, beginning with the credit for the earliest tax year.
- (d) Except as provided in subsection (c), the credit provided for in this section shall be allowed only during the five-year period beginning on the effective date of this article.
- (e) The department may promulgate regulations for the administration of this article.
- Section 9. Regulations may be promulgated to implement this act.

Section 10. If a court of competent jurisdiction adjudges or declares any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this act invalid or unconstitutional, such judgment or decree shall not affect, impair, invalidate, or nullify the remainder of this act, but the effect of the decision shall be confined to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part

of this act adjudged or declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 11. All laws or parts of laws which conflict with this act are repealed.

Section 12. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on October 1, 2012. Sections 5 and 8 of this act shall take effect on the first day of the second full month following this act's passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming law. All other sections of this act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming law.