- 1 SB496
- 2 119009-1
- 3 By Senator Bedford
- 4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
- 5 First Read: 04-MAR-10

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8 SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Incentives Financing Authority is authorized to borrow not in excess of \$175,000,000 for research and training facility projects and for the payment of training facility management fees. This bill would provide for the financing by the Authority and payment of certain economic development costs, projects and related expenses, increase the aggregate principal amount of bonds that may be issued by the Authority; permit the Authority to fund and maintain a maintenance fund for the payment of operating and maintenance expenses for projects acquired or operated by the Authority and other costs, expenses or other obligations of the authority; and authorize the state to enter into a funding agreement under which the state may agree, in the event moneys are withdrawn during any fiscal year of the State from any reserve fund established by the authority for the payment of debt service on any Authority bonds due to the inadequacy of

pledged revenues to timely pay such debt service,

to provide funds to the authority not in excess of

the amount so withdrawn from whatever source

lawfully available to the state for that purpose in

order to fully fund such reserve fund.

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A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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To amend Sections 41-10-541, 41-10-547, 41-10-550, and 41-10-551; to modify existing terms and to add additional terms; to provide for the financing and payment of the costs of certain economic development costs, projects and related expenses; to provide authority for the entering into by the Governor on behalf of the state of an agreement under which the state may agree, in the event moneys are withdrawn during any fiscal year of the State from any reserve fund established by the authority for the payment of debt service on any Authority bonds due to the inadequacy of pledged revenues to timely pay such debt service, to provide funds to the authority not in excess of the amount so withdrawn from whatever source lawfully available to the state for that purpose in order to fully fund such reserve fund; to permit the Authority to transfer all the moneys not needed for payment of debt service on the Authority's bonds or other Authority obligations from the Special Fund created in Section 1 41-10-5 to the general fund of the State or to a fund to be

2 used to pay certain costs of acquiring, operating and

3 maintaining projects owned or operated by the Authority upon

certain conditions, and to increase the aggregate principal

amount of bonds that may be issued by the Authority.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 41-10-541, Code of Alabama 1975,

is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 "\$41-10-541.

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- "(a) The following words and phrases used in this division, and others evidently intended as the equivalent thereof, shall, in the absence of clear implication herein otherwise, be given the following respective interpretations herein:
- (1) APPROPRIATED FUNDS. Net TVA payments to the extent such payments are pledged and appropriated to the authority pursuant to Section 41-10-550.
- (2) AUTHORITY. The public corporation organized pursuant to this division.
- (3) AUTHORITY GUARANTY. An agreement of the authority pursuant to which the payment of debt service referable to bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of a development agency is guaranteed by the authority.
- (4) AUTHORITY OBLIGATIONS. Bonds of the authority and authority quaranties.
- (5) AUTHORITY-GUARANTEED OBLIGATIONS. Bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of a development agency

- that are issued solely for the purpose in financing a project and that are guaranteed, in whole or in part, by an authority quaranty.
 - (6) BONDS. Bonds of the authority issued for any authorized purpose.

- (7) DEBT SERVICE. The principal of and interest (and premium, if any) on an obligation (including, without limitation, any principal required to be paid prior to its stated maturity) and any ongoing trustee or paying agent fees or fees of providers of credit enhancement or liquidity facilities.
 - (8) DEVELOPMENT AGENCY. A county, municipality, or industrial development authority organized under Chapter 92A of Title 11; an industrial development board organized under Article 4, Chapter 54 of Title 11, or the State Industrial Development Authority.
 - (9) DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors of the Alabama Incentives Financing Authority.
- obligations which as to principal and interest constitute direct obligations of, or are unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America, including obligations of any federal agency to the extent such obligations are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States of America and any certificates or any other evidences of an ownership interest in such obligations of, or unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America or in specified portions

thereof (which may consist of the principal thereof or the interest thereon); b. Bonds, debentures, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by any of the following agencies: Bank of Cooperatives; federal intermediate credit banks; Federal Financing Bank; federal home loan banks; Federal Farm Credit Bank; Export-Import Bank of the United States; federal land banks; Farmers Home Administration or any other agency or corporation which has been or may hereafter be created by or pursuant to an act of the Congress of the United States as an agency or instrumentality thereof; c. Bonds, notes, pass through securities, or other evidences of indebtedness of Government National Mortgage Association and participation certificates of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; d. Full faith and credit obligations of any state, provided that at the time of purchase such obligations are rated as least "AA" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group and at least "Aa" by Moody's Investor Service; e. Public housing bonds issued by public agencies or municipalities and fully secured as to the payment of both principal and interest by contracts with the United States of America, or temporary notes, preliminary notes or project notes issued by public agencies or municipalities, in each case fully secured as to the payment of both principal and interest by a requisition or payment agreement with the United States of America; f. Time deposits evidenced by certificates of deposit issued by banks or savings and loan associations which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, provided that, to the

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extent such time deposits are not covered by federal deposit 2 insurance, such time deposits (including interest thereon) are fully secured by a pledge of obligations described in 3 paragraphs a., b., c., and e. above, which at all times have a market value not less than the amount of such bank time 5 6 deposits required to be so secured and which meet the greater 7 of 100% collateralization or the "AA" collateral levels established by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group for structured 8 financing; g. Repurchase agreements for obligations of the 9 10 type specified in paragraphs a., b., c., and e. above, provided such repurchase agreements are fully collateralized 11 12 and secured by such obligations which have a market value at 13 least equal to the purchase price of such repurchase 14 agreements which are held by a depository satisfactory to the State Treasurer in such manner as may be required to provide a 15 perfected security interest in such obligations, and which 16 17 meet the greater of 100% collateralization or the "AA" collateral levels established by Standard & Poor's Rating 18 Group for structured financings; and h. Uncollateralized 19 investment agreements with, or certificates of deposit issued 20 21 by banks or bank holding companies, the senior long-term 22 securities of which are rated at least "AA" by Standard & 23 Poor's Rating Group and at least "Aa" by Moody's Investors 24 Service.

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(11) FINANCED PROPERTY. All property whether real, personal, or mixed, the costs of which were or are to be paid or reimbursed in whole or in part with the proceeds of bonds

of the authority or the proceeds of authority-guaranteed obligations.

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(12) FINANCING AGREEMENT. Any loan, lease, agreement, grant agreement, financing agreement, credit agreement, security agreement, mortgage, indenture, guaranty agreement, or other type of agreement entered into by the authority in connection with the incurring of authority obligations.

(13) FUNDING AGREEMENT. An agreement between the state and the authority under which the state shall agree to make funds available to the authority to be used for the payment, or to enhance the payment, of debt service on bonds issued by the authority; provided (i) such agreement shall have an initial term from the date of execution thereof through the September 30 immediately succeeding said date of execution, and shall be subject to renewal, at the sole option of the state, for successive terms of twelve (12) months each, each such term to coincide with the fiscal year of the state beginning on October 1 and continuing until and including the next succeeding September 30, and (ii) any obligation on the part of the state to pay amounts required to be paid during any fiscal year of the state under such agreement shall constitute a limited obligation of the state payable solely out of the revenues and receipts appropriated to and received by the state during the fiscal year of the state during which any such amount is to be payable.

1 (1314) HEREIN, HEREBY, HEREUNDER, HEREOF, and OTHER
2 EQUIVALENT WORDS. Refer to this division as an entirety and
3 not solely to the particular section or portion thereof in
4 which any such word is used.

(1415) INDUSTRIAL OR RESEARCH ENTERPRISE. Any trade or business described in 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Major Groups 20 to 39, inclusive, 50 and 51, Industrial Group Number 737, and Industry Numbers 8731, 8733, and 8734, as set forth in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual published by the United States Government Office of Management and Budget, and includes such trades and businesses as may be hereafter reclassified in any subsequent publication of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual.

resolution of the directors for the purpose of holding amounts directed by resolution of the authority to be maintained and used to pay the costs and expenses of acquiring, operating, and maintaining any project or other property owned, acquired or operated by the authority and to pay any other costs, expenses or obligations of the authority.

(1517) NET TVA PAYMENTS. With respect to any fiscal year of the state, the in-lieu-of-taxes payments made by the Tennessee Valley Authority to and retained by the state during such fiscal year after distributions made pursuant to Section 40-28-2 and after compliance with Section 41-9-783.

1 (1618) PERSON. Unless limited to a natural person by 2 the context in which it is used, includes a private firm, a private association, a public or private corporation, a 3 municipality, a county, or an agency, department, or instrumentality of the state or of a county or municipality.

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 $(\frac{17}{19})$ PROJECT. Any land, building, or other improvement, and all real and personal properties deemed necessary or useful in connection therewith, whether or not now in existence, that are or are to be located in the state and that have been or are to be acquired, constructed, expanded, or installed for use (i) by an industrial, or research, manufacturing, aviation or transportation enterprise, (ii) by any enterprise engaged in manufacturing, processing, cultivating or assembling any agricultural or manufactured product, (iii) or as a training facility, or (iv) by any entity in promoting economic development or the recruitment of industrial, research, manufacturing, aviation or transportation prospects to the state.

(1820) PROJECT COSTS. All costs and expenses incurred by the authority or any person in connection with the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of a project, including, without limitation, any of the following:

a. The costs of acquiring, constructing, installing, and equipping a project, including all obligations incurred for labor and to contractors, subcontractors, builders, and materialmen.

b. The costs of acquiring land or rights in land and
any cost incidental thereto, including recording fees.

- c. The costs of contract bonds and of insurance of all kinds that may be required or necessary during the acquisition, construction, or installation of a project.
- d. The costs of architectural and engineering services, including test borings, surveys, estimates, plans and specifications, preliminary investigations, environmental mitigation, and supervision of construction, as well as for the performance of all the duties required by or consequent upon the acquisition, construction, and installation of a project.
- e. The costs associated with installation of fixtures and equipment, surveys, including archeological and environmental surveys, site tests and inspections, subsurface site work, excavation, removal of structures, roadways, cemeteries, and other surface obstructions, filling, grading, and provisions for drainage, storm water retention, installation of utilities, including water, sewer, sewage treatment, gas, electricity, communications, and similar facilities, off-site construction of utility extensions to the boundaries of the property, and paving.
- f. Interest accruing with respect to bonds of the authority or authority-guaranteed obligations for a period of up to two years after the issuance of such bonds.
- g. All costs, expenses, and fees incurred in connection with the issuance of authority obligations and

- 1 authority-guaranteed obligations, including, without
- 2 limitation, all legal, accounting, financial, printing,
- 3 recording, filing, and other fees and expenses.
- 4 h. The costs for obtaining bond insurance, letters
- of credit, or other forms of credit enhancement or liquidity
- 6 facilities.
- 7 i. Amounts to be deposited in any reserve fund
- 8 established with respect to such authority obligations or
- 9 authority-guaranteed obligations.
- j. All other costs of a nature comparable to or
- 11 required in connection with those described.
- 12 k. Reimbursement to any person of any of the
- foregoing costs incurred by the person either for its own
- 14 account, or for the account of the authority and without
- 15 regard to when incurred.
- 16 (21) RESERVE FUND. Any fund or account established
- 17 by the authority in which moneys are placed in reserve to be
- 18 <u>used to pay the principal of or interest on bonds issued by</u>
- 19 the authority in the event funds pledged for the payment of
- debt service on such bonds are insufficient to timely satisfy
- 21 <u>said payment requirements.</u>
- 22 (1922) STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. The
- public corporation created pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 10
- of this title, as amended.
- (2023) TRAINING FACILITY. Any facility to be used
- for the purpose of providing vocational, technical, or other
- training for employees or prospective employees of any

industry for the manufacturing, processing, cultivating, or assembling of any agricultural or manufactured product.

(2124) TRAINING FACILITY MANAGEMENT FEES. Fees payable to any person as compensation for managing a training facility under a management agreement entered into pursuant to Section 41-10-551, including payments to be made to reimburse such person for the costs of operating and maintaining a training facility.

(b) The definitions set forth in this section shall be deemed applicable whether the words defined are used in the singular or plural. Whenever used herein any pronoun or pronouns shall be deemed to include both singular and plural and to cover all genders."

Section 2. Section 41-10-547, Code of Alabama 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"\$41-10-547.

"(a) The authority is authorized from time to time to sell and issue its bonds for the purpose of financing project costs pertaining to one or more projects or for the purpose of providing funds to pay training facility management fees, or any combination of the foregoing including, without limitation, in the case of authority obligations issued for the purpose of providing funds to pay training facility management fees, costs, expenses, and other items of the type described in paragraphs g., h., i., and j. of the definition of project costs in Section 41-10-541 or to enter into quaranty agreements wherein the authority quarantees payment,

in whole or in part, of debt service referable to obligations issued by development agencies for the purpose of financing project costs pertaining to one or more projects; provided, however, that the principal amount of authority obligations shall not exceed one hundred seventy-five million dollars (\$175,000,000) three hundred million dollars (\\$300,000,000). For purposes of determining compliance with this section and Section 41-10-550, (i) the principal amount of authority guaranties outstanding shall be determined on the basis of the outstanding principal of the authority-quaranteed obligations to which such authority guaranties relate, (ii) bonds of the authority (or, in the case of authority guaranties, the authority-quaranteed obligations to which such authority quaranties relate), the payment of debt service referable to which at and prior to their respective stated maturities is fully provided for by an irrevocable escrow consisting solely of cash and direct obligations of the United States, shall not be deemed to be outstanding, and (iii) in the case of bonds of the authority or authority-quaranteed obligations with respect to which interest is not payable on a current basis (generally referred to as "capital appreciation bonds"), the principal amount outstanding shall be computed on the basis of their original principal amount and not on the basis of their accreted value. The authorization granted in the first sentence of this section shall include, but shall not be limited to, (1) the power to issue authority obligations related to financing project costs with respect to projects

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that are under construction on the date of issuance of such obligations and (2) the power to fund training facility management fees in advance of their incurrence and for such period as the directors deem appropriate based upon estimates furnished to the authority.

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(b) The bonds of the authority shall be signed by its president and attested by its secretary and the seal of the authority shall be affixed. A facsimile of the signature of one or both of the officers may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any such bonds in lieu of being manually subscribed thereon and a facsimile of the seal of the authority may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any of the bonds in lieu of being manually affixed thereto. Any bonds of the authority may be executed and delivered by it at any time and from time to time, and shall be in the form and denominations and of such tenor and maturities, shall bear such rate or rates of interest, shall be payable at such times and evidenced in such manner, may be made subject to redemption at the option of the authority at such times and after such notice and on such conditions and at such redemption price or prices, and may contain such other provisions not inconsistent herewith, all as may be provided by the resolution of the directors of the authority under which the bonds are authorized to be issued. Bonds of the authority may be sold at public or private sale from time to time as the directors may consider advantageous.

contained in this division, the authority may from time to time sell and issue refunding bonds for the purpose of refunding any matured or unmatured bonds of the authority or authority-quaranteed obligations then outstanding. The authority may pay out of the proceeds of the sale of refunding bonds such fees and the expenses of issuance which the said directors may deem necessary and advantageous in connection with the issuance of the refunding bonds; provided, however, that no refunding bonds shall be issued unless the present value of all debt service on the refunding bonds (computed with a discount rate equal to the true interest rate of the refunding bonds and taking into account all underwriting discount and other issuance expenses) shall not be greater than 95% of the present value of all debt service on the bonds to be refunded (computed using the same discount rate and taking into account the underwriting discount and other issuance expenses originally applicable to such bonds) determined as if such bonds to be refunded were paid and retired in accordance with the schedule of maturities (considering mandatory redemption as a scheduled maturity) provided at the time of their issuance.

(c) Subject to the provisions and limitations

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(d) Authority obligations shall not be general obligations of the authority but shall be payable solely from one or more of the following sources: (1) appropriated funds; (2) the revenues and receipts of the authority derived from any financing agreement entered into by the authority with

respect to the project or projects financed by such authority obligations; (3) the income or proceeds realized by the authority under any mortgage or other security granted to the authority; (4) amounts derived from any letter of credit, insurance policy or other form of credit enhancement applicable to the authority obligations; (5) any reserve or other fund established for such purpose by the authority; (6) any earnings on the proceeds of authority obligations invested by the authority pending their disbursement; and (7) any other amounts that may hereafter be appropriated to the authority. As security for the payment of the debt service referable to bonds issued by it and of its obligations under authority quaranties, the authority is authorized and empowered to pledge for payment of such debt service and such obligations appropriated funds and other moneys and funds from which such authority obligations are made payable. All contracts made and all authority obligations issued or incurred by the authority pursuant to this division shall be solely and exclusively obligations of the authority and shall not constitute or create an obligation or debt of the state. Bonds issued by the authority shall be construed to be negotiable instruments, although payable solely from a specified source, as provided herein. The proceedings of the directors under which any authority obligations are authorized to be issued and any such mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture may contain any agreements and provisions respecting the collection and disposition of appropriated funds, revenues, and receipts

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subject to such mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture, the creation and maintenance of special funds from such appropriated funds, revenues, and receipts, the rights, duties, and remedies of the parties to any such instrument and the parties for the benefit of whom the instrument is made and the rights and remedies available in the event of default, all as the directors shall deem advisable. Any pledge made with respect to authority obligations shall be valid and binding from the time such pledge is made; the appropriated funds, revenues, receipts, funds, and other property so pledged shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further act; and the lien of pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind against the authority irrespective of whether the parties have notice thereof. Neither the proceedings of the directors authorizing the authority obligations nor any other instrument by which a pledge is created need be recorded. Each pledge, agreement, mortgage, and deed of trust or trust indenture made for the benefit or security of any of the authority obligations of the authority shall continue effective until the authority obligations have been fully paid or satisfied.

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(e) Any bonds of the authority and any authority guaranteed obligations may be used by the holder as security for any funds belonging to the state, or to any political subdivision, instrumentality, or agency of the state, in any instance where security for the deposits may be required by

1 law. Unless otherwise directed by the court having 2 jurisdiction, or the document that is the source of authority, a trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, or one acting in 3 any other fiduciary capacity may, in addition to any other investment powers conferred by law and with the exercise of 5 reasonable business prudence, invest trust funds in bonds of 6 7 the authority and authority-quaranteed obligations. Neither a public hearing nor consent of the Department of Finance or any 8 other department or agency shall be a prerequisite to the 9 10 issuance of bonds by the authority. Bonds of the authority and authority-quaranteed obligations shall be legal investments 11 12 for funds of the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama, the 13 Employees' Retirement System of Alabama, and the State 14 Insurance Fund.

(f) The State Treasurer shall be registrar, transfer agent, and paying agent for the bonds. The State Treasurer may designate named individuals who are employees of the state and who are assigned to the State Treasurer's office to authenticate the bonds."

Section 3. Section 41-10-550, Code of Alabama 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"\$41-10-550.

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"(a) For the purpose of providing funds to enable the authority to pay debt service referable to any bonds issued by it, amounts due on any authority guaranties entered into by it under this division and other obligations incurred by the authority pursuant to this division, and to pay the

costs of acquiring, operating and maintaining any project or other property the authority may own, acquire or operate and to pay any other costs, expenses or obligations of the authority, there is irrevocably pledged to such purpose and is appropriated to the authority so much as may be necessary therefore of the appropriated funds. All moneys hereby appropriated and pledged shall be deposited in a special fund maintained by the State Treasurer separate and apart from all other funds under his or her supervision, and the State Treasurer is hereby directed to cause moneys in the special fund to be disbursed solely for the following purposes:

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(1) Prior to dissolution of the authority, moneys on deposit in the special fund shall be disbursed by the State Treasurer in payment of debt service referable to authority obligations and in payment of other obligations of the authority incurred pursuant to this division; provided, however, that if directed so to do by a resolution of the directors, the State Treasurer shall transfer from the special fund to the General Fund of the state or to such Maintenance Fund established by the authority for payment of the costs of acquiring, operating and maintaining any project or other facilities the authority may at any time own, acquire or operate and to pay any other costs, expenses or obligations of the authority, moneys and securities the directors determine are not needed to meet the aforesaid obligations of the authority; provided, however, that no such transfer to the General Fund or Maintenance Fund shall be made during any year in which any authority obligations are outstanding unless,

with respect to each of the two fiscal years immediately

preceding the fiscal year in which such transfer is proposed

to be made, the amount of money that had been deposited from

time to time into the special fund was not less than 1.3 times

the maximum annual debt service payable on all authority

obligations outstanding during such fiscal year.

- (2) Promptly upon dissolution of the authority, the State Treasurer shall transfer all cash and securities on deposit in the special fund to the General Fund of the state.
- (b) Pending disbursement for the above purposes, moneys on deposit in the special fund shall be invested by the State Treasurer in eligible investments as specified by the directors.
- (c) The Governor, on behalf of the state, and the authority are hereby authorized to enter into a funding agreement pursuant to which the state may agree, in the event that moneys are withdrawn during any fiscal year of the state from any reserve fund established by the authority for any of its bonds owing to the inadequacy of pledged revenues to pay when due debt service thereon as herein provided for, to provide funds to the authority not in excess of the amount so withdrawn from whatever source lawfully available to the state for that purpose in order to fully fund such reserve fund in accordance with the proceedings of the authority pursuant to which the authority issued the bonds for which such reserve fund was established. Any funding agreement entered into

pursuant hereto shall be executed by the Governor and

countersigned by the Finance Director of the state and by the

President of the authority and countersigned by the Secretary

of the authority."

Section 4. Section 41-10-551, Code of Alabama 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"\$41-10-551.

"No authority obligations shall be incurred with respect to any project training facility and no funds of the authority shall be applied to payment of training facility management fees pursuant to Section 41-10-550 unless the following conditions are met:

- (1) Subject to subdivisions (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection, in the case of any project training facility financed in whole or in part through the issuance of bonds of the authority, title to the financed property shall be acquired in the name of, or transferred promptly after acquisition to, the authority and the title shall remain in the authority.
- (2) Subject to subdivisions (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection, in the case of any project training facility financed in whole or in part through the issuance of authority-guaranteed obligations, title to the financed property shall be acquired in the name of, or transferred promptly after acquisition to, the development agency issuing such authority-guaranteed obligations and the title shall remain in the development agency.

(3) In the case of any project training facility constituting an industrial or research facility and financed in whole or in part through the issuance of bonds of the authority or authority-guaranteed obligations, the financed property may be leased to any person under an agreement containing such provisions as the authority may require, including without limitation, provisions for the payment of nominal rental by the lessee.

- (4) In the case of any project training facility constituting an industrial or research facility and financed in whole or in part through the issuance of bonds of the authority or authority-guaranteed obligations, the financed property may be acquired and held in the name of any person, provided that the authority may require such person to enter into an agreement containing, among other things, an option by the authority to purchase or otherwise acquire such project training facility if the operation of the project training facility by such person ceases.
- (5) In the case of the issuance of bonds of the authority to provide funds for payment of project costs referable to a training facility or training facility management fees or in the case of direct funding of training facility management fees pursuant to the provisions of Section 41-10-549 without the issuance of bonds of the authority, the authority may enter into an agreement with any person to provide for operation and management of such training facility by such person and to prescribe the terms and conditions upon

which training facility management fees are to be paid or 1 reimbursed by the authority from the proceeds of the bonds. 2 Such agreement shall contain such other provisions as the 3 authority may require. Without limiting the generality of the 5 foregoing, the authority shall have the power to lease or convey title to any training facility to the Alabama Public 6 7 School and College Authority or to the State Board of Education, acting by and through the Alabama Industrial 8 Development Training Institute, and such agencies shall have 9 10 the power to acquire title to or a leasehold interest in any 11 such training facility." 12 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon its

signature by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming a law.