- 1 HB66
- 2 203761-6
- 3 By Representative McClammy
- 4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
- 5 First Read: 04-FEB-20
- 6 PFD: 01/28/2020

| 1 | | ENGROSSED |
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4 A BILL

5 TO BE ENTITLED

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Relating to economic development; to authorize the incorporation in any municipality or county in this state of a local redevelopment authority for the purpose of promoting trade and commerce by inducing commercial enterprise to upgrade, improve, modernize, and expand existing facilities and to locate new facilities on land contiguous with an active U.S. Air Force military installation within the corporate limits of the municipality, or geographical boundaries of the county; to provide for the formation, governance, power, and duties of the authority; to provide for the issuance by the authority of interest-bearing revenue bonds and other interest-bearing securities, payable solely out of the revenues and receipts derived from the leasing or sale of properties owned by the authority; to provide that the securities may be secured by a pledge of the revenues and receipts from which they are payable; to authorize the authority to finance, construct, acquire, purchase, renovate, maintain, improve, sell, equip, operate, or manage projects; to authorize the authority to receive the proceeds of municipal taxes levied for the authority's purposes; to make

the securities issued by the authority eligible investments for various governmental bodies and fiduciaries; to provide procedures for the issuance of bonds by the authority; to exempt the income of any authority, and all conveyances, leases, mortgages, and deeds of trust to which the authority is a party, from all taxation in the state; to exempt the authority from all license and excise taxes and all charges of judges of probate; to exempt the authority from all laws of the state governing usury or prescribing or limiting interest rates; to authorize political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, and public corporations of the state to aid the authority with loans or grants of money, the furnishing of services, or the transfer of property to the authority without any public election; and to further provide for the dissolution of certain county industrial development authorities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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Section 1. Legislative Intent.

The redevelopment, revitalization, and redevelopment of land contiguous with a U.S. Air Force military installation operating within any municipality or county in this state, whether operational or formerly operational, promotes the public good by encouraging the initial development, redevelopment, and revitalization of such land, and the retention of U.S. Air Force military installations within the state. It is therefore in the public interest and is vital to the public welfare of the people of Alabama, and it is hereby

declared to be the public purpose of this act, to develop,
revitalize, and redevelop land contiguous with United States
military installations throughout the State of Alabama.

Section 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the following words have the following meanings:

- (1) APPLICANT. A natural person who files a written application with the governing body of any authorizing subdivision in accordance with Section 3.
- (2) AUTHORITY. Any local redevelopment authority organized pursuant to this act.
- (3) AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION. A resolution adopted by the governing body of any authorizing subdivision in accordance with Section 3, that authorizes the incorporation of the authority.
- (4) AUTHORIZING SUBDIVISION. Any county or municipality that has adopted an authorizing resolution.
 - (5) BOARD. The board of directors of the authority.
- (6) BONDS. Any bonds, notes, certificates, or any other form of indebtedness representing an obligation to pay money.
- (7) CONTIGUOUS. Two or more tracts of land if touching for a continuous distance of not less than 200 feet. The term shall include tracts of land divided by bodies of water, streets, railroads, or utility rights-of-way, or by land owned by a governmental entity. In determining whether

- 1 land is contiguous with a U.S. Air Force military
- installation, either of the following is contiguous:
- a. Land which is separated by bodies of water,
- 4 streets, railroads, or utility rights-of-way shall be deemed
- 5 to be contiguous even though such bodies of water, streets,
- 6 railroads, or utility rights-of-way are outside of the
- 7 geographical area of the applicable U.S. Air Force military
- 8 installation.
- 9 b. Land which is separated by other land which is
- 10 owned by a governmental entity.
- 11 (8) COOPERATIVE DISTRICT. An incorporated capital
- improvement cooperative district formed in accordance with and
- for the purposes set forth in Chapter 99B of Article 2 of
- Title 11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.
- 15 (9) COUNTY. Any county in the state.
- 16 (10) DIRECTOR. A member of the board of the
- 17 authority.
- 18 (11) GOVERNING BODY. With respect to any
- municipality, its city council or other governing body; with
- respect to any county, its county commission or other
- 21 governing body.
- 22 (12) INCORPORATORS. The persons forming a public
- corporation organized pursuant to this act.
- 24 (13) LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AREA. Land contiguous with
- an active U.S. Air Force military installation located and
- operating within this state, totaling not more than 150 square

- acres in geographical size, all as set forth in the application required to be filed in accordance with Section 3.
- (14) MILITARY INSTALLATION. A An active federal 3 military installation currently on the effective date of this 4 5 act funded in whole or in part by the United States Department 6 of Defense and operated by the U.S. Air Force. Military 7 installation shall specifically exclude from its definition any and all armories, buildings, target ranges, and other 8 necessary facilities for the proper housing, instruction, 9 10 training, and administration of all units and headquarters of the National Guard and Naval Militia of Alabama. 11
 - (15) MUNICIPALITY. Any incorporated city or town within this state.

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- (16) PERSON. Unless limited to a natural person by the context in which it is used, includes a public or private corporation, a municipality, a county, the state, or an agency, department, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or a municipality.
- (17) PRINCIPAL OFFICE. The place at which the certificate of incorporation and amendments thereto, the bylaws and the minutes of the proceedings of the board of the authority are kept.
- 23 (18) PRIVATE USER. A lessee, manager,
 24 non-governmental user, or any person relating to the planning,
 25 development, construction, operation, management, or
 26 maintenance of a project.

2 structures, facilities, or other improvements located or to be located within the local redevelopment area, and any fixtures, 3 machinery, equipment, furniture, or other property of any 4 5 nature whatsoever used on, in, or in connection with any such land, interest in land, building, structure, facility, or 6 7 other improvement, all for the essential public purpose of the development of trade, entertainment, amusement, commerce, 8 9 industry, or employment opportunities in the local 10 redevelopment area. The term includes projects in the local redevelopment area for any industrial, commercial, 11 entertainment or amusement, business, office, parking, 12 13 utility, residential (including, without limitation, homes, 14 apartments, town houses, condominiums, hotels, motels, or 15 assisted living facilities) or other use; provided: a. Capital expenditures for development of the 16 17 project within the local redevelopment area equal or exceed

(19) PROJECT. Interests in land, buildings,

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- twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000)
- b. A majority of the members of the authority determine, by a resolution duly adopted, that the project and use thereof would facilitate the retention, development, or redevelopment of an active U.S. Air Force military installation or the area contiguous to such military installation as well as further the public purpose of this act.
 - (20) STATE. The State of Alabama.

Section 3. Filing of Application; Authorization of Incorporation by Governing Body of an Authorizing Subdivision.

- (a) An authority may be organized pursuant to this act. In order to incorporate a public corporation, any number of natural persons, not less than three, who are duly qualified electors of the authorizing subdivision, shall first file a written application with the governing body of the authorizing subdivision, which shall contain all of the following:
 - (1) A statement that the applicants propose to incorporate the authority pursuant to the provisions of this act.
 - (2) A statement of the proposed location of the principal office of the authority, which shall be within the corporate limits of a municipality or geographical limits of a county.
 - (3) A general description of the proposed project.
 - (4) A map or legal description or other description of the proposed local redevelopment area.
 - (5) A statement that each of the applicants is a duly qualified elector residing in the authorizing subdivision.
- (6) A request that the governing body of the authorizing subdivision adopt a resolution declaring that it is wise, expedient, and necessary that the proposed authority be formed and authorizing the applicants to proceed to form

the proposed authority by the filing for record of a certificate of incorporation in accordance with Section 4.

- (7) A signed letter of authorization from the Governor and the Chair of the Alabama Job Creation and Military Stability Commission designating the project as a project eligible for the benefits of this act.
 - (b) (1) Every application shall be accompanied by supporting documents or evidence as the applicants may consider appropriate. As promptly as may be practicable after the filing of the application in accordance with the provisions of this section, the governing body of the authorizing subdivision shall review the contents of the application, and shall adopt a resolution either:
 - a. Denying the application.
- b. Declaring that its approval of the application will benefit the authorizing subdivision, as applicable, and will facilitate the retention, development, or redevelopment of an existing military installation or area contiguous to the military installation, and that the proposed authority be formed and authorizing the applicants to proceed to form the proposed authority by filing for record of a certificate of incorporation in accordance with Section 4.
- (2) The governing body with which the application is filed shall also include a copy of the application in the minutes of the meeting of the governing body at which final action upon the application is taken.

Section 4. Procedure to Incorporate; Contents and
Execution of Certificate of Incorporation.

- (a) Within 40 days following the adoption of the authorizing resolution, the applicants shall proceed to incorporate the authority by filing for record in the office of the judge of probate of the county wherein the proposed local redevelopment area is located a certificate of incorporation which shall comply in form and substance with the requirements of this section and which shall be in the form and executed in the manner provided in this section.
 - (b) The certificate of incorporation of the authority shall state all of the following:
 - (1) The names of the persons forming the authority, and that each of them is a duly qualified elector residing in the authorizing subdivision.
 - (2) The name of the authority, which shall include the local redevelopment authority.
 - (3) A general description of the proposed project.
 - (4) The period for the duration of the authority, if the duration is to be perpetual, subject to Section 19, that fact shall be stated.
 - (5) The name of the authorizing subdivision, together with the date on which the governing body thereof adopted the authorizing resolution.
 - (6) The location of the principal office of the authority, which shall be within the corporate limits of the

municipality or within the geographical limits of the county,
as applicable.

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- (7) That the authority is organized pursuant to the provisions of this act.
 - (8) A map, legal description, or other description describing the geographical area of the local redevelopment area.
 - (9) Any other matters relating to the authority that the incorporators may choose to insert and that are not inconsistent with this act or with the laws of this state.
 - (c) The certificate of incorporation shall be signed and acknowledged by the incorporators before an officer authorized by the laws of this state to take acknowledgments to deeds. When the certificate of incorporation is filed for record, there shall be attached to it the following:
 - (1) A copy of the application as filed with the governing body of the authorizing subdivision in accordance with Section 3.
 - (2) A certified copy of the authorizing resolution adopted by the governing body of the authorizing subdivision.
 - (3) A certificate by the Secretary of State that the name proposed for the authority is not identical to that of any other corporation organized under the laws of this state or so nearly similar thereto as to lead to confusion and uncertainty.
 - (d) Upon the filing for record of the certificate of incorporation and the documents required by subsection (c),

the authority shall come into existence and shall constitute a public corporation under the name set forth in the certificate of incorporation. The judge of probate shall send notice to the Secretary of State that the certificate of incorporation of the authority has been filed for record.

Section 5. Amendments to Certificate of Incorporation.

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- (a) The certificate of incorporation of the authority incorporated under this act may at any time and from time to time be amended in the manner provided in this section. The board shall first adopt a resolution proposing an amendment to the certificate of incorporation which shall set forth in full in the resolution, and which amendment may include any matters which might have been included in the original certificate of incorporation.
- (b) After the adoption by the board of a resolution proposing an amendment to the certificate of incorporation of the authority, the chair of the board and the secretary of the authority shall sign and file a written application in the name of and on behalf of the authority, under its seal, with the governing body of the authorizing subdivision, requesting the governing body to adopt a resolution approving the proposed amendment, and accompanied by a certified copy of the resolution adopted by the board proposing the amendment to the certificate of incorporation, together with documents in support of the application as the chair may consider appropriate. As promptly as may be practicable after the

filing of the application with the governing body of the authorizing subdivision pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this section, the governing body shall review the application and shall adopt a resolution either denying the application or authorizing the proposed amendment. The governing body shall also cause to be made a part of the minutes of the meeting of the governing body at which final action upon the application is taken.

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(c) Within 40 days following the adoption by the governing body of the authorizing subdivision of a resolution approving the proposed amendment the chair of the board of the authority and the secretary of the authority shall sign, and file a certificate for record in the office of the judge of probate of the county of incorporation in the name of and on behalf of the authority under its seal reciting the adoption of the respective resolutions by the board and by the governing body and setting forth the proposed amendment. The judge of probate for the county shall record the certificate in an appropriate book in his or her office. When the certificate has been filed and recorded, the amendment shall become effective and the certificate of incorporation shall be amended to the extent provided in the amendment. No certificate of incorporation of the authority shall be amended except in the manner provided in this section.

Section 6. Each authority shall be Governed by a Board of Directors.

(a) All powers of the authority shall be exercised by the board or pursuant to its authorization. The board shall consist of any number of directors, not less than three, who shall be elected by the governing body of the authorizing subdivision for staggered terms as provided in this section.

- (b) At the time of the election of the first board, the governing body of the authorizing subdivision shall divide the directors into three groups containing as nearly equal whole numbers as may be possible. The governing body of the authorizing subdivision shall specify for which term each director is elected. The initial term of office of the first group shall be two years. The initial terms of office of the second group shall be four years. The initial term of office of the third group shall be six years.
- (c) Thereafter, the term of office of each director shall be six years. If at the expiration of any term of office of any director, a successor has not been elected, the director whose term of office has expired shall continue to hold office until his or her successor has been elected. If at any time there is be a vacancy on the board, a successor director shall be elected by the governing body of the authorizing subdivision to serve for the unexpired term applicable to the vacancy.
- (d) Each director shall be a duly qualified elector residing in the authorizing subdivision. Directors shall be eligible for reelection. Each director shall be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred by him or her in and about the

performance of his or her duties. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, no director shall be compensated for serving as a director of the authority.

(e) Any director of the authority may be impeached and removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds provided in Section 175 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, and the general laws of the state for impeachment and removal of the officers provided in Section 175 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

Section 7. Officers of the Authority.

The officers of the authority shall consist of a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and other officers as its board shall deem necessary or appropriate. The offices of secretary and treasurer may, but need not, be held by the same person. The chair and vice chair of the authority shall be elected by the board from the membership thereof; the secretary, the treasurer, and any other officers of the authority may, but need not, be members of the board and shall also be elected by the board. The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the authority shall also be the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the board, respectively.

Section 8. Powers of Authority.

The authority shall have the following powers, together with all powers incidental thereto or necessary to the discharge thereof in corporate form:

1 (1) To have succession by its corporate name for the 2 duration of time, which may be in perpetuity, subject to 3 Section 19, specified in its certificate of incorporation.

- (2) To sue and be sued in its own name and to prosecute and defend civil actions in any court having jurisdiction of the subject matter and of the parties; provided that the authority shall be deemed to be a governmental entity as defined in Chapter 93 of Title 11, Code of Alabama 1975, for the purpose of limiting the damages for which the authority may be liable.
- (3) To adopt and make use of a corporate seal and to alter the seal at its pleasure.
- (4) To adopt and alter bylaws for the regulation and conduct of its affairs and business.
- (5) To acquire, whether by purchase, construction, exchange, gift, lease, or otherwise, and to refinance existing indebtedness on, improve, maintain, equip, and furnish one or more projects, including all real and personal properties which the board of the authority may deem necessary in connection therewith, regardless of whether or not such projects shall then be in existence.
- (6) To lease to others any or all of its projects and to share and collect rent thereof, and to terminate any lease upon the failure of the lessee to comply with any of the obligations thereof.
- (7) To sell, exchange, donate, or convey and to grant options to any lessee to acquire any of its projects and

any or all of its properties if the board finds that action is in furtherance of the purposes for which the authority was organized.

- (8) To issue its bonds for the purpose of carrying out any of its powers.
- (9) To mortgage and pledge any or all of its projects or any part or parts thereof, as security for the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds so issued and any agreements made in connection therewith, whether then owned or thereafter acquired, and to pledge the revenues and receipts therefrom or from any thereof.
- (10) To execute and deliver, in accordance with the provisions of this section and Section 9, mortgages and deeds of trust and trust indentures, or either.
- otherwise, construct, erect, assemble, purchase, acquire, own, repair, remodel, renovate, rehabilitate, modify, maintain, extend, improve, install, sell, equip, expand, add to, operate, or manage projects and to pay the costs of any project from the proceeds of bonds, or any other funds of the authority, or from any contributions or loans by persons, corporations, partnerships, either general or limited, or other entities, all of which the authority is hereby authorized to receive, accept, and use.
- (12) To issue and use the proceeds of any bonds or other indebtedness thereof for the purpose of paying or loaning the proceeds thereof to pay all or any part of the

cost of any project and otherwise to further or carry out the public purpose of the authority and to pay all costs of the authority incident to, or necessary and appropriate to, furthering or carrying out such purpose.

- any federal, state, county, or municipal government or agency or to any other source, public or private, for loans, grants, guarantees, or other financial assistance in furtherance of the authority's public purpose and to accept and use the same upon the terms and conditions as are prescribed by the federal, state, county, or municipal government or agency or other source.
- (14) To enter into agreements with the federal government or any agency thereof to use facilities or the services of the federal government or any agency thereof in order to further carry out the purposes of the authority.
- (15) To contract for any period with this state, state institutions, or any city, town, municipality, or county of the state for the use by the authority of any facilities or services of the state or any state institution, city, town, municipality, or county, or for the use by any state institution or any city, town, municipality, or county of any facilities or services of the authority, provided such contracts shall deal with activities and transactions as the authority and any political subdivision with which the authority contracts are by law authorized to undertake.

(16) To extend credit or make loans to any person, corporation, partnership, either general or limited, or other entity for the costs of any project or any part of the costs of any project, which credit or loans may be evidenced or secured by loan agreements, notes, mortgages, deeds to secure debt, trust deeds, security agreements, assignments, or other instruments, or by rentals, revenues, fees, or charges, upon the terms and conditions as the authority shall determine to be reasonable in connection with such extension of credit or loans, including provision for the establishment and maintenance of reserve funds, and, in the exercise of powers granted hereby in connection with any project, the authority may require the inclusion in any loan agreement, note, mortgage, deed to secure debt, trust deed, security agreement, assignment, or other instrument of the provisions or requirements for guaranty of any obligations, insurance, construction, use, operation, maintenance, and financing of a project, and other terms and conditions, as the authority may deem necessary or desirable.

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(17) To acquire, accept, or retain equitable interests, security interests, or other interests in any real property, personal property, or fixtures by loan agreement, note, mortgage, deed to secure debt, trust deed, security agreement, assignment, pledge, conveyance, contract, lien, loan agreement, or other consensual transfer in order to secure the repayment of any moneys loaned or credit extended by the authority.

- 1 (18) To appoint, employ, contract with, and provide 2 for the compensation of, officers, employees, and agents, 3 including, without limitation, engineers, attorneys, 4 contractors, consultants, and fiscal advisors, as the board 5 shall deem necessary for the conduct of the business of the 6 authority.
 - (19) To provide the insurance as the board may deem advisable.

- (20) To make, enter into, and execute contracts, agreements, leases, and other instruments and to take other actions as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish any purpose for which the authority was organized or to exercise any power expressly granted in this act.
- administered in a parallel manner to state ad valorem, income, sales, and use taxes, to be made by any private user of the project to the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, any municipality, or any county, as the case may be. To enter into any agreements requiring any person to make a payment in lieu of taxes and to enforce the payment in lieu of taxes with all rights of a tax assessor or tax collector within this state collecting ad valorem taxes, sales taxes, or income taxes due to the governing body establishing the authority.
- (22) To receive and use the proceeds of any tax, fee, charge, or payment in lieu of tax to pay the costs of any

project or for any other purpose for which the authority may use its own funds pursuant to this act.

- (23) To encourage and promote the retention, development and redevelopment of any military installation, or the improvement and revitalization of the local redevelopment area and to make, contract for, or otherwise cause to be made long-range plans or proposals for the local redevelopment area in cooperation with the authorizing subdivision.
- (24) To exercise any power granted by the laws of this state to public or private corporations, not to include the power of eminent domain, which is not in conflict with the public purpose of the authority.
- (25) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers conferred by this act. Nothing in this act shall affect any right, title, or interest in real or personal property, whether recorded or unrecorded, that is held by any person or entity engaged in providing utility services.
 - (26) To enter into agreements with a private user.
- (27) To pursue any tax liens relating to the failure of any person to make any payments in lieu of tax.
- (28) To acquire, receive, and take, by purchase, gift, lease, devise, or otherwise, and to hold property of every description, whether located in one or more counties or municipalities.
- (29) To make, enter into, and execute licenses, contracts, agreements, leases, and other instruments and to

take other actions as may be necessary or convenient to

accomplish any purpose for which the authority was organized

or to exercise any power expressly granted under this section.

- (30) To plan, establish, develop, acquire, purchase, lease, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, and operate a project or projects or any part or combination of any thereof, whether located in one or more counties or municipalities, and to acquire franchises and easements deemed necessary or desirable in connection therewith.
- (31) To assume obligations secured by a lien on or payable out of or secured by a pledge of the revenues from any project or any part of any thereof that may be acquired by the authority, any obligation so assumed to be payable by the authority solely out of the revenues derived from the operation of any project or any thereof of the authority, or any other sources of revenue, taxes, fees, or payments in lieu of tax.
- (32) To pledge for payment of any bonds issued or obligations assumed by the authority any revenues from which those bonds or obligations are made payable as provided in this act.
- (33) To execute and deliver trust indentures in accordance with the provisions of this act.
- (34) To appoint, employ, contract with, and provide for the compensation of officers, employees, and agents, including, but without limitation to, engineers, attorneys,

accountants, architects, management consultants, and fiscal advisers as the business of the authority may require.

- (35) To make and enforce reasonable rules governing the use of any project managed, leased, owned, or controlled by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private users.
- (36) To cooperate with the United States of America, any agency or instrumentality thereof, this state, any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state and any public corporation, and to make contracts with them or any of them, as the board may deem advisable to accomplish the purpose for which the authority was established.
- (37) To sell and convey any of its properties that may have become obsolete or worn out or that may no longer be needed or useful as a part of any project of the authority.
- (38) To sell and convey, with or without valuable consideration, any of its projects or any portion thereof to any one or more counties, municipalities, or public corporations which have the corporate power to operate the project or portions thereof so conveyed and the property and income of which are not subject to taxation.
- (39) To enter into a management agreement or agreements with any person for the management by the authority of any project or any part thereof upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreeable.
- (40) To fix and revise from time to time reasonable rentals, licenses, rates, fees, and other charges for the use

of any project or portion thereof owned, managed, leased, or operated by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private users, and to collect all charges imposed by the foregoing.

- (41) To require any users of any of its projects any part thereof to make a reasonable deposit with the authority in advance to insure the payment of rentals, licenses, rates, fees or charges, or costs of repair to any damage to the project and to be subject to the application to the payment thereof if and when delinquent.
- (42) All projects of the authority shall be located wholly within the local redevelopment area.

Section 9. Bonds of Authority.

- (a) Source of Payment. All bonds issued by the authority shall be payable solely out of the revenues and receipts derived from the leasing or sale by the board of its projects, or from any other source as may be designated in the proceedings of the board under which the bonds are authorized to be issued.
- (b) Pledge of Revenues, Receipts, and Other
 Security. The principal and interest on any bonds issued by
 the authority shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues and
 receipts out of which the principal and interest may be
 payable and may be secured by a mortgage and deed of trust or
 trust indenture conveying as security for the bonds all or any
 part of the property of the authority from which the revenues
 or receipts so pledged may be derived.

(c) Resolutions. The resolution under which the bonds are authorized to be issued and any mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture may contain any agreements and provisions respecting the operation, maintenance, and insurance of the property covered by the mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture, the use of the revenues and receipts subject to the mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture, the creation and maintenance of special funds from the revenues and receipts, the rights, duties, and remedies of the parties to any instrument and the parties for the benefit of whom the instrument is made and the rights and remedies available in the event of default as the board shall deem advisable and which are not in conflict with the provisions of this act. Each pledge, agreement, mortgage, and deed of trust or trust indenture made for the benefit or security of any of the bonds of the authority shall continue effective until the principal of and interest on the bonds for the benefit of which the same were made shall have been fully paid.

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(d) Defaults. In the event of default in payment or in any agreements of the authority made as a part of the contract under which the bonds were issued, whether contained in the proceedings authorizing the bonds or in any mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture executed as security therefor, the rights of any holder of the bonds may be enforced by mandamus, the appointment of a receiver, or either of the remedies, and, if provided in the instrument, the

mortgage, and the deed of trust, or trust indenture, may be foreclosed.

- (e) Execution. All bonds issued by the authority shall be signed by the chair of its board and attested by its secretary, and the seal of the authority shall be affixed thereto, and any interest coupons applicable to the bonds of the authority shall be signed by the chair of its board; provided, that as long as the registrar of the bonds has manually signed an authentication certificate for the bonds, facsimile signatures of both of the officers may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any bonds in lieu of each manually signing the same, a facsimile of the seal of the authority may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any bonds in lieu of being manually affixed thereto, and a facsimile of the signature of the chair of the board may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any such interest coupons in lieu of his or her manually signing the same.
- rate, maturities, sale, and negotiability. Any bonds may be executed and delivered by the authority at any time and from time to time, shall be in the form and denominations and of the tenor and maturities, shall contain provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, and shall bear the rate or rates of interest, payable and evidenced in the manner, as may be provided by resolution of its board. Bonds of the authority may be sold at either public or private sale in the manner and at the price or prices and at such time or

times as may be determined by the board to be most advantageous. The authority may pay all expenses, premiums, and commissions in connection with any financing performed by it. All bonds, except bonds registered as to principal or as to both principal and interest, and any interest coupons applicable thereto issued by the authority shall be construed to be negotiable instruments although payable solely from a specified source.

- obligations created or assumed and all bonds issued or assumed by the authority shall be solely an obligation of the authority and shall not create an obligation or debt of the state or of any county or of any city; provided that this sentence shall not be construed to release the original obligor from liability on any bond or other obligation assumed by the authority. Any bonds issued by the authority shall be limited or special obligations of the authority payable solely out of its revenues and receipts of the authority specified in the proceedings authorizing those bonds.
- (h) Eligibility for investment. Bonds of the authority are made legal investments for executors, administrators, trustees, and other fiduciaries, unless otherwise directed by the court having jurisdiction of the fiduciary relation or by the document that is the source of the fiduciary's authority, and for savings banks and insurance companies organized under the laws of the state.

1 (i) Contracts to secure payment of principal and 2 interest. As security for payment of the principal of and the interest on bonds issued or obligations assumed by it, the 3 authority may enter into a contract or contracts binding itself for the proper application of the proceeds of bonds and other funds, for the continued operation and maintenance of 7 any project owned by it or any part or parts thereof, for the imposition and collection of reasonable rates, licenses, rentals, fees, and charges for and the promulgation of reasonable regulations respecting any project, for the disposition and application of its gross revenues or any part thereof, and for any other act or series of acts not 12 13 inconsistent with the provisions of this act for the protection of the bonds and other obligations being secured 14 15 and the assurance that the revenues from the project will be sufficient to operate the project, maintain the same in good 16 repair and in good operating condition, pay the principal of 17 and the interest on any bonds payable from the revenues and 19 maintain the reserves as may be deemed appropriate for the protection of the bonds, the efficient operation of the 21 project, and the making of replacements thereof and capital 22 improvements thereto. Any contract pursuant to the provisions 23 of this section may be set forth in any resolution of the board authorizing the issuance of bonds or the assumption of 25 obligations or in any trust indenture made by the authority under this act. 26

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Section 10. Proceeds from the Sale of Bonds.

All moneys derived from the sale of any bonds issued by the authority shall be used solely for the purpose or purposes for which the same are authorized, including, but limited to, the use of bond proceeds to establish reserve funds as security for the payment of the principal, premium, as applicable, and interest on the bonds, and any costs and expenses incidental thereto. The costs and expenses may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- (1) The underwriting, fiscal, engineering, legal, and other expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds.
- (2) Except in the case of refunding bonds, interest to accrue on the bonds for a period ending not later than two years from their date.

Section 11. Refunding Bonds.

Any bonds issued by the authority may from time to time be refunded by the issuance, by sale or exchange, of refunding bonds payable from the same or different sources for the purpose of paying all or any part of the principal of the bonds to be refunded, any redemption premium required to be paid as a condition to the redemption prior to maturity of any bonds that are to be so redeemed in connection with refunding, any accrued and unpaid interest on the bonds to be refunded, any interest to accrue on each bond to be refunded to the date on which it is to be paid, whether at maturity or by redemption prior to maturity, and the expenses incurred in connection with refunding; provided, that unless duly called

for redemption pursuant to provisions contained therein; the holders of any bonds then outstanding and proposed to be refunded shall not be compelled without their consent to surrender their outstanding bonds for refunding. Any refunding bonds may be sold by the authority at public or private sale at the price or prices as may be determined by its board to be most advantageous, or may be exchanged for the bonds or other obligations to be refunded. Any refunding bonds may be executed and delivered by the authority at any time and from time to time, shall be in the form and denominations and have the tenor and maturities, shall contain provisions not inconsistent with this act, and shall bear the rate or rates of interest, payable and evidenced in the manner, as may be provided by resolution of its board. Any refunding bonds issued by the authority shall be issued and may be secured in accordance with Section 9.

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Section 12. Notice of Bond Resolution.

(a) Upon the adoption by the board of the authority of any resolution providing for the issuance of bonds, the authority may cause to be published once a week for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper published and having general circulation in the geographical area of the authorizing subdivision, a notice in substantially the following form (the blanks being properly filled in) at the end of which shall be printed the name and title of either the chair or secretary of the authority.

"The _____ Local Redevelopment authority, a public corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama, on the ____ day of ____ authorized the issuance of \$____ principal amount of bonds of the public corporation for purposes authorized in the act of the Legislature of Alabama under which the public corporation was organized. Any action or proceeding questioning the validity of the bonds, or the pledge and the mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture to secure the same, or the proceedings authorizing the same, must be commenced within 30 days after the first publication of this notice."

- (b) A newspaper shall be deemed to be published in the geographical area of the authorizing subdivision, within the meaning of this section, if its principal editorial office is located in the geographical area of the authorizing subdivision.
- aside or question the proceedings for the issuance of the bonds referred to in the notice or to contest the validity of any bonds, or the validity of any agreements relating to any payment in lieu of taxes, fees, charges, and any pledge and mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture made therefor, must be commenced within 30 days after the first publication of the notice. After the expiration of that period, no right of action or defense questioning or attacking the validity of the proceedings or of the bonds or the pledge or mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture shall be asserted, nor shall

the validity of the proceedings, bonds, pledge, mortgage, and deed of trust or trust indenture be open to question in any court on any ground whatsoever except in an action commenced within that period.

Section 13. Exemption from Taxation.

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(a) Any authority formed under this act, a cooperative district of which the authority is a constituent member, the sales, property, and income of the authority or cooperative district, whether used by it or leased to others, all bonds issued by the authority or cooperative district, the income from the bonds or from other sources, the interest and other profits from the bonds inuring to and received by the holders thereof, conveyances by and to the authority or cooperative district of which the authority is a member, and leases, mortgages, and deeds of trust by and to the authority or the cooperative district shall be exempt from all taxation in the state, inclusive of any ad valorem taxes or lodgings taxes imposed by the State of Alabama, a municipality, or county. The authority shall be exempt from the payment of any fees, taxes, or costs to the judge of probate of any county in connection with its incorporation or with any amendment to its certificate of incorporation or otherwise or to any judge of probate of any county in connection with the recording by it of any document or otherwise. No license or excise tax may be imposed by any authority with respect to the privilege of engaging in any of the activities authorized by this article.

(b) An authority, any cooperative district of which an authority is a member, and any private user is exempt from the payment of all state, county, and municipal sales and use taxes relating in any way to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. The exemption set forth in this section may be conditioned (1) by the authorizing subdivision on a payment by the exempt party of a payment in lieu of tax, or (2) by the authority on a payment by the private user of a payment in lieu of tax pursuant to subdivision (21) of Section 8, or by both subdivisions (1) and (2) which shall be subject to enforcement and collection like any sales and use taxes and which shall constitute a first lien on the project and shall be foreclosable in the same manner as a past due assessment pursuant to Section 15. The exemption provided in this subsection shall apply to any cooperative district of which the authority is a constituent member, and any private user which leases, operates, or manages a project owned by the authority or cooperative district of which the authority is a member.

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(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), an authority or a cooperative district of which an authority is a member shall be subject to sales and use taxes, income tax, and ad valorem tax after all bonds financing or refinancing the projects have been paid upon the first day of the third calendar month following 20 years after the date of the incorporation of the authority.

(d) Any payments in lieu of tax received by the authority, as set forth in this section, shall be dedicated to the payment of bonds financing or refinancing the projects of the authority, including, but not limited to, accelerated payments and reserve payments. Any funds from the in-lieu-of tax payments remaining with the authority after all bonds financing or refinancing the projects are fully paid, in excess of the amounts necessary to fully repay the bonds, shall be transferred to the governmental entity or entities that would have received the tax revenue if not for the tax exemption and corresponding in lieu of tax payment.

Section 14. Liability of the Authorizing Subdivision.

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The authorizing subdivision shall not in any event be liable for the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any bonds of the authority or for the performance of any pledge, mortgage, obligation, or agreement of any kind whatsoever which may be undertaken by the authority, and none of the bonds of the authority or any of its agreements or obligations shall be construed to constitute indebtedness of the authorizing subdivision within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory provision.

Section 15. Failure to Pay Past Due Assessments.

If any user, lessee, or owner of the project fails to pay when due, with time being of the essence, any assessments or fees due under this act, including, but without limitation, any payments in lieu of taxes, collectively the

"past due assessment," then the authorizing subdivision or authority, or their designated agents, hereinafter collectively referred to as the "fee collector," may commence proceedings to foreclose on the land and improvements of the user, lessee, or owner of the project having land within the State of Alabama, subject to the terms of any executed agreement between the fee collector and the user, lessee, or owner of the project, as follows:

- (1) The fee collector shall send a letter by means of United States certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the user, owner, or lessee of the project. The address of the user, owner, or lessee as shown in the tax assessment records of the tax assessor or revenue commissioner for the county in which land of the user, owner, or lessee is located shall be sufficient.
- (2) The letter shall specify that if payment of the past due assessment is not made within 10 days of the date of the letter, foreclosure proceedings may be commenced against the land of the user, owner, or lessee.
- (3) Any late payment received within the 10-day period will accrue a late fee of the greater of five percent of the payment or fifty dollars (\$50).
- (4) If payment is not made within the 10-day period, the entire past due assessment shall become immediately due and payable, and the fee collector may do either of the following:

a. File a complaint in the circuit court for the county in which the property of the user, owner, or lessee is located requesting that the property be foreclosed. Thirty days following service of process, unless the past due assessment is paid in the meantime, the court shall enter a decree declaring that the property shall be sold to the highest bidder.

- b. Proceed to sell the property of the user, owner, or lessee against which the past due assessment is made to the highest bidder for cash.
- c. In either case, the property of the user, owner, or lessee shall be sold in the same manner and upon the same notice as provided by law for the sale of lands or property by foreclosure by power of sale for mortgages. The proceeds from the sale shall first be applied to the amount of the past due assessment and all accrued interest thereon, plus penalties specified in subdivision (3), plus the attorneys' fees and other expenses incurred by the fee collector in the foreclosure and suit.
- (5) If the fee collector concludes that no bidders are present or that all bids are insufficient, the fee collector may announce that the sale shall be continued to a later date to be announced by public notice.
- (6) Upon declaring the highest bidder and receipt of the purchase price, the fee collector shall deliver a foreclosure deed to the highest bidder which shall vest therein legal title to the property sold by this foreclosure,

subject to easement or other rights in such property of persons other than the user, owner or lessee that has failed to pay the past due assessment. The user, owner, or lessee of the property shall have no right of redemption unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation of the authority with respect to the past due assessment.

- payment of the past due assessment, then for the cost of collection, suit, foreclosure, and deed preparation, then for penalties, then for accrued interest and interest until the next principal payment date of bonds as provided in any agreement relating to the payments in lieu of tax or as set forth in this act with respect to prepayments of potentially past due assessments, and then as a reserve fund until any bonds are fully paid, and only then any remaining portion shall be paid to the user, owner, or lessee of the land at user's, owner's, or lessee's last known address as shown in the records of the tax assessor or revenue commissioner with respect to the tract of land.
- (8) The fee collector may bid on any sale the same as any other person, and may credit any portion of the past due assessment and other costs as a part of its bid.
- (9) If the highest amount bid and accepted is insufficient to pay the entire past due assessment and to fund a reserve to fully pay any bonds of the authority, the fee collector and holders of the bonds shall have no further claim

against the user, owner, or lessee of the land assessed by virtue of the past due assessment.

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- (10) Any foreclosure deed shall make no warranty with respect to the title to the land other than as expressly stated therein.
 - (11) At any point in the foreclosure proceedings, until a bid is accepted, the fee collector may waive the default on the past due assessment on terms as the fee collector may consider proper and reinstate the past due assessment, subject to any contrary terms of the fee collector's proceedings with respect to any bonds.
 - (12) No suit may be brought or maintained to enjoin the collection of any past due assessments under this act.

Section 16. Exemption from Usury Laws.

The authority shall be exempt from the laws of the State of Alabama governing usury or prescribing or limiting interest rates, including, but without limitation to, the provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as it may at any time be amended.

Section 17. Exemption from Competitive Bid Laws.

The authority, cooperative district of which the authority is a member, and any private user, and all contracts made by them shall be exempt from the laws of the State of Alabama requiring competitive bids for any contract to be entered into by municipalities or public corporations authorized by them or any public works, including, but without limitation to, the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 16 of

Title 41, commencing at Section 41-16-50, of the Code of

Alabama 1975, as amended from time to time, and Chapter 2 of

Title 39, commencing at Section 39-2-1 of the Code of Alabama

1975, as amended from time to time.

Section 18. Freedom of Authority from State Supervision and Control.

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This act is intended to aid the state through the furtherance of the purposes of this act by providing an appropriate and independent instrumentality of the state with full and adequate powers to fulfill its functions. Except as expressly provided in this act, no proceeding, notice, or approval shall be required for the incorporation of the authority or the amendment of its certificate of incorporation, the issuance of any bonds, the execution of any mortgage and deed of trust or trust indenture, or the exercise of any other of its powers. Neither a public hearing nor the consent of the State Department of Finance shall be a prerequisite to the issuance of bonds by the authority.

Section 19. Earnings of the Authority.

The authority shall be a nonprofit corporation and no part of its net earnings remaining after payment of its expenses shall inure to the benefit of any individual, firm, or corporation, except that in the event the board shall determine that sufficient provision has been made for the full payment of the expenses, bonds, and other obligations of the authority, then any net earnings of the authority thereafter

accruing shall be paid to the authorizing subdivision or private user for the creation and maintenance of the project.

Section 20. Dissolution of Corporation and Vesting of Title to Property.

At any time when the authority has no bonds or other obligations outstanding, its board may adopt a resolution, which shall be duly entered upon its minutes, declaring that the authority shall be dissolved. Upon filing for record of a certified copy of the resolution in the office of the judge of probate of the county in which the authority was formed pursuant to Section 4, the authority shall thereupon stand dissolved and in the event it owned any property at the time of its dissolution, the title to all its properties shall thereupon pass to the authorizing subdivision or private user as required by any agreement with any private user.

Section 21. Existence of Authority Not to Prevent Subsequent Incorporation of Another Authority.

The existence of one or more authorities incorporated under this act shall not prevent the subsequent incorporation under this act of another authority or the amendment of the certificate of incorporation of another authority pursuant to authority granted by the same county, counties, municipality or municipalities, public corporation or public corporations, or by the same combination thereof, even though the project described in the certificate of incorporation, as originally filed or amended, of any existing authority may include a project proposed by an authority that

is proposed to be incorporated under this act or that proposes to amend its certificate of incorporation under this act.

Section 22. Establishment and Revision of Rentals, Licenses, Rates, Fees, and Charges for Services or Facilities Rendered by Authority.

Rates, fees, charges, rentals, and licenses for services rendered by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or a private user or facilities provided by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or a private user from any of their projects shall be so fixed and, from time to time, revised as at all times to provide funds at least sufficient, taking into account other sources for the payment thereof, to:

- (1) Pay the cost of operating, maintaining, repairing, replacing, extending, and improving the project or projects of the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user.
- (2) Pay the principal of and the interest on all bonds issued and obligations assumed by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user that are payable out of the revenues derived from operation of the project or projects of the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user as the principal and interest become due and payable.
- (3) Create and maintain such reserves for the foregoing purposes or any of them as may be provided in any

trust indenture executed by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user under this act or in any resolutions or agreements of the board authorizing the issuance of bonds, the assumption of any obligation, or the acquisition of the project.

(4) Make annual payments, if any, to the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, the state, municipalities, counties, departments, authorities, agencies, and political subdivisions of the state, and any public corporations organized under the laws of the state as the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user may have contracted to make.

Section 23. Loans, sales, grants, guarantees, contractual or lease obligations of money or property, to an authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user by counties, municipalities, and public corporations.

(a) For the purpose of securing services of or the right to use or the use by its citizens or customers of one or more projects of an authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user, or aiding or cooperating with the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user in the planning, development, undertaking, acquisition, construction, extension, improvement, financing, operation, or protection of a project, any county, municipality, or other political subdivision, public corporation, agency, or instrumentality of

this state, upon such terms and with or without consideration, as it determines, may do all of the following:

- (1) Lend or donate money to, guarantee all or any part of the indebtedness or operating expense of, or perform services for the benefit of, the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user.
- (2) Donate, sell, convey, transfer, lease, or grant to the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user, without the necessity of authorization at any election of qualified voters, any property of any kind, including, but without limitation, any project, any interest in any thereof, and any franchise.
- district of which the authority is a member, or any private user, or enter into a lease or management agreement under terms as may be mutually agreeable, including a contract obligating it to purchase a certain service or product from the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user for a stipulated price in a stipulated period of time, to pay for the service or product whether or not it receives it, to lease all or a part of a project for a stipulated rental for a stipulated period of time, to pay the rental whether or not the leased facilities are available to it, or to make a management fee payment.

(4) Do any and all things, whether or not specifically authorized in this section, not otherwise prohibited by law, that are necessary or convenient to aid and cooperate with the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user in the planning, undertaking, acquisition, construction, financing, or operation of its projects.

- (5) Pay, or provide for the payment of, the principal of or interest on any then outstanding bonds theretofore issued by the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user, whether or not the principal and interest shall have then matured or become due, and any premium that may be payable upon redemption prior to maturity.
- (6) Issue its bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness in order to provide moneys to make any loan, donation, or payment authorized in this subsection.
- (7) Provide for payment of the bonds of the authority, a cooperative district of which the authority is a member, or any private user by an irrevocable trust fund created by agreement with a bank or trust company.
- (b) Any bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by an authorizing subdivision pursuant to authorization in this section may be either general obligations or special obligations payable solely from a specified source or sources, which source or sources may include any public revenues, or portions thereof, which the

authorizing subdivision may lawfully use for the purpose. The county or municipality may pledge for payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds that are general obligations any public revenues that may lawfully be used for that purpose and may pledge for the benefit of any special obligations issued by it so much as may be necessary for the payment of the public revenues from which the special obligations are made payable.

(c) The proceeds of any bonds issued by an authorizing subdivision for the purpose referred to in this section may be applied for payment of principal, interest, and redemption premium with respect to the authority's bonds to be paid from the proceeds and the expenses of issuing the bonds of the authorizing subdivision.

Section 24. In addition to the requirements for dissolution under Section 11-92A-22, Code of Alabama 1975, prior to the dissolution of an authority organized under Chapter 92A of Title 11, Code of Alabama 1975, the authority shall provide notice to the Legislature of the authority's intent to dissolve, as adopted by its board of directors in accordance with Section 11-92A-22, Code of Alabama 1975. The articles of dissolution, as required by Section 11-92A-22, Code of Alabama 1975, may not be effective prior to the 15th legislative day of the regular session of the Legislature that commences no sooner than six weeks after the notice of dissolution is provided to the Legislature as required in this section.

Section 25. The provisions of this act are
severable. If any part of this act is declared invalid or
unconstitutional, that declaration shall not affect the part
which remains.

Section 26. This act shall become effective
immediately following its passage and approval by the
Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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| 2 | |
| 3 | House of Representatives |
| 4 | Read for the first time and re- |
| 5 | ferred to the House of Representa- |
| 4 5 6 7 | tives committee on Ways and Means General Fund04-FEB-20 |
| 8 | |
| 9 | Read for the second time and placed |
| 10 | on the calendar 1 amendment 11-FEB-20 |
| 11 | |
| 12 | Read for the third time and passed |
| 13 | as amended 18-FEB-20 |
| 14 | Yeas 90, Nays 6, Abstains 5 |
| | |
| 15 | |
| 16 | Jeff Woodard |
| 17 18 | Clerk |
| T 0 | |