- 1 HB571
- 2 159266-3
- 3 By Representative Burdine (N & P)
- 4 RFD: Local Legislation
- 5 First Read: 04-MAR-14

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2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 Relating to Lauderdale County; to authorize and provide for the organization as a public corporation of a 4 5 tourism board in and for Lauderdale County; to provide for the government of such tourism board by a board of directors, and 6 for the election and terms of office of the members of such 7 8 board of directors; to provide for the termination or dissolution of any then existing public body formed to promote 9 10 or develop tourism in either Lauderdale County or the City of Florence, and for the disposition or transfer to such tourism 11 board of the assets and liabilities of such public body; to 12 13 provide for the officers of such tourism board; to specify the 14 general powers of such tourism board and its board of 15 directors; to deny to such tourism board any power of taxation or eminent domain; to provide that agreements and obligations 16 17 undertaken by such tourism board shall not create any 18 obligation or debt of the State of Alabama, Lauderdale County, 19 or any of certain municipalities in the county; to apply to such tourism board certain provisions of the Code of Alabama 20 21 1975, as amended, pertaining to tort claims and judgments 22 against local governmental entities; to authorize Lauderdale 23 County, certain municipalities in the county, and certain public agencies, authorities, or bodies to convey to such 24 25 tourism board, with or without consideration, certain

properties and funds owned by any of them; to provide for the 1 2 continuing distribution to such tourism board, Lauderdale 3 County, and certain municipalities in the county, of certain specified portions of the proceeds of that certain county 4 5 lodging tax now being levied and collected in Lauderdale County pursuant to Act No. 86-411, as amended, and to provide 6 for the use of the tax proceeds by the recipients thereof; to 7 8 provide further for the distribution and use of the proceeds of the tax prior to the formation of the tourism board; to 9 10 exempt such tourism board and the property, income, securities, and certain conveyances and documents thereof from 11 all taxation by the state or any political subdivision 12 13 thereof; to exempt the gross proceeds of sales of property 14 used by such tourism board from all sales and similar excise 15 taxes in the state, and to exempt such property from all use 16 and similar excise taxes in the state; to exempt such tourism 17 board from all laws of the state governing usury or 18 prescribing or limiting interest rates; to provide for the 19 disposition of the earnings of such tourism board, its 20 dissolution and the disposition thereupon of its assets and properties; and to provide an effective date. 21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. Definitions. (a) The following words and 24 phrases used in this act, and others evidently intended as the 25 equivalent thereof, in the absence of clear implication herein

1	otherwise, shall be given the following respective		
2	interpretations herein:		
3	(1) Authorizing Resolution. The resolution adopted		
4	by the governing body of the City of Florence or the county,		
5	in accordance with the provisions of this act, that authorizes		
6	the organization of the tourism board.		
7	(2) Board. The board of directors of the tourism		
8	board.		
9	(3) Code. The Code of Alabama 1975 and all		
10	amendments thereto and, with respect to any particular title,		
11	chapter, article, division, section, or other portion thereof,		
12	any act of the Legislature or other code preceding such		
13	portion of the Code or subsequently replacing the same.		
14	(4) County. Lauderdale County, Alabama.		
15	(5) County Lodging Tax. That certain tax levied by		
16	Act No. 86-441 enacted at the 1986 Regular Session of the		
17	Legislature, as heretofore amended.		
18	(6) Director. A member of the Board.		
19	(7) Florence. The City of Florence, Alabama.		
20	(8) Governing Body. With respect to the county, its		
21	county commission, and, with respect to a municipality, its		
22	city or town council, board of commissioners, or other like		
23	governing body.		
24	(9) Legislature. The Legislature of the state.		

(10) Municipality. Any incorporated municipality
 located wholly within the county.

3 (11) Planning Jurisdiction. A municipality's
4 planning jurisdiction but excludes any portion of such
5 planning jurisdiction located outside of the county.

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(12) State. The State of Alabama.

7 (13) Tourism Board. The public corporation organized
8 pursuant to the provisions of this act.

(b) The terms "herein," "hereby," "hereunder," 9 "hereof," and other equivalent words refer to this act as an 10 11 entirety and not solely to the particular section or portion 12 hereof in which any such word is used. The definitions set 13 forth herein shall be deemed applicable whether the words 14 defined are used in the singular or plural. Whenever used 15 herein any pronoun or pronouns shall be deemed to include both 16 singular and plural and to cover all genders.

17 Section 2. Organization of Tourism Board. (a) The 18 governing bodies of Florence and the county may form a tourism 19 board as a public corporation pursuant to this act by each 20 adopting a resolution that does both of the following:

(1) Recites that the county and the City of Florence
propose to form the tourism board pursuant to the provisions
of this act.

24 (2) States the name of the tourism board, which may
25 be a name indicating in a general way the function of the

tourism board and the geographical area proposed to be served 1 by it, and shall include the word "authority," "bureau," or 2 3 "board," unless the Secretary of State shall determine that such name is identical to the name of another corporation 4 5 organized under the laws of the state or so nearly similar thereto as to lead to confusion and uncertainty, in which case 6 there may be inserted additional identifying words so as to 7 8 eliminate said duplication or similarity or to adopt some other similar name that is available. 9

While it shall not be necessary that any such resolution be published in any newspaper or posted, the governing body of the county or the City of Florence, as the case may be, shall cause such resolution to be spread upon or made a part of the minutes of the meeting thereof at which final action thereon is taken.

(b) Upon the adoption of both authorizing
resolutions, the tourism board shall come into existence and
shall constitute a public corporation under the name set forth
in each such authorizing resolution. The authorizing
resolutions shall both be filed, not more than 15 days after
the date on which the latter thereof was adopted, for record
in the office of the judge of probate of the county.

(c) The governing bodies of the county and the City
 of Florence may from time to time adopt resolutions amending
 the authorizing resolutions theretofore adopted by them with

respect to the tourism board; and such amendatory resolutions
shall be filed, not more than 15 days after the date on which
the latter thereof was adopted, for record in the office of
the judge of probate of the county.

5 (d) (c) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any law enacted by the Legislature, whether 6 general, special, or local, or in any ordinance, resolution, 7 8 or resolution and order previously adopted by the county and the City of Florence, the governing bodies of the county and 9 10 the City of Florence, in the authorizing resolutions or any amendatory resolutions hereinabove authorized, may terminate 11 or dissolve any public body that was theretofore formed for 12 13 the purpose of promoting or developing tourism in either or 14 both the City of Florence and the county. If such a public body is dissolved, the county and the City of Florence, 15 16 whether in the authorizing resolutions or in any amendatory resolutions adopted by them, may establish the tourism board 17 as the successor in interest to all of the assets and 18 19 liabilities of the public body so dissolved.

Section 3. Board of Directors. (a) The tourism board shall have a board of directors composed of five directors, two of whom shall be elected by the governing body of the City of Florence, two of whom shall be elected by the governing body of the county, and one of whom shall be elected jointly by the governing body of the City of Florence and the

governing body of the county. Each director must be 21 years 1 2 of age or older and must be a resident and qualified elector 3 of the county. Both of the directors first so elected by the governing body of the City of Florence after the organization 4 of the tourism board shall be elected for an initial term of 5 six months. Both of the directors first so elected by the 6 governing body of the county after the organization of the 7 8 tourism board shall be elected for an initial term of 18 months. The director first so elected jointly by the governing 9 10 body of the City of Florence and the governing body of the 11 county after the organization of the tourism board shall be elected for an initial term of 42 months. Thereafter the term 12 13 of office of each director elected by the governing body of 14 the City of Florence, the governing body of the county, or 15 jointly by the governing body of the City of Florence and the 16 governing body of the county shall be four years.

17 (b) If, at the expiration of any term of office of 18 any director, a successor thereto shall not have been elected 19 or appointed, the director whose term of office shall have expired shall continue to hold office until his or her 20 21 successor shall be so elected or appointed. If at any time 22 there should be a vacancy on the board, whether by death, 23 resignation, incapacity, disgualification, or otherwise, a 24 successor director to serve for the unexpired term applicable 25 to such vacancy shall be elected or appointed by the governing body of the entity that appointed the director who vacated his or her position on the board. Any director shall be eligible for reelection or reappointment.

4 (c) Each director shall serve as such without
5 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually
6 incurred by him or her in and about the performance of his or
7 her duties as a director.

8 (d) A majority of the directors shall constitute a 9 quorum for the transaction of business. No vacancy in the 10 membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the 11 board. Whenever any notice is required by the by-laws of the 12 13 tourism board to be given of any meeting of the board, a 14 waiver thereof in writing, signed, whether before or after 15 such meeting, by the person or persons entitled to such 16 notice, shall be the equivalent to the giving of such notice. 17 Any matter on which the board is authorized to act may be 18 acted upon at any regular, special or called meeting. All 19 resolutions adopted by the board shall constitute actions of 20 the tourism board, and all proceedings of the board shall be 21 reduced to writing and signed by the secretary of the tourism 22 board and shall be recorded in a well-bound book. Copies of such proceedings, when certified by the secretary of the 23 24 tourism board, under the seal of the tourism board, shall be

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received in all courts as prima facie evidence of the matters
 and things therein certified.

3 Section 4. Powers of Tourism Board. (a) The tourism 4 board may conduct programs and events, including, but not 5 limited to, programs of information and publicity, sporting 6 events, and other public events to attract tourists and visitors to the county. The tourism board may conduct programs 7 8 or events in the state and elsewhere and expend its funds in 9 the furtherance of such programs and events in the state and 10 elsewhere.

(b) The tourism board may enter into contracts with any person, firm, corporation, or association to carry out the purposes set forth herein. No contract entered into by the tourism board shall bind either the state, the county, or any municipality.

(c) The tourism board shall have the following
additional powers, together with all powers incidental thereto
or necessary to the discharge thereof in corporate form:

(1) To sue and be sued in its own name in civil suits and actions, and to defend suits and actions against it, including suits and actions ex delicto and ex contractu, subject, however, to the same limitations that are imposed, by Section 11-93-2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, on the recovery of money damages under any judgment against a governmental entity, as the term "governmental entity" is defined and used

in Section 11-93-1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, it being 1 2 understood and hereby expressly provided that the provisions 3 of Section 11-93-2, Code of Alabama 1975, shall apply, and shall be applied, fully to the tourism board, in all 4 5 circumstances and instances whatsoever, and in every judicial action or proceeding, whether in state or Federal court, to 6 which the tourism board is or may be a party, whether or not 7 8 the tourism board itself is, or would be, or would be deemed to be, a "governmental entity," as that term is defined and 9 10 used as aforesaid.

(2) To own, lease, license, operate, purchase, acquire, hold, improve, develop, manage, sell, convey, transfer, exchange, release, and dispose of, either alone or in conjunction with others, real and personal property, tangible and intangible, of every kind, character, and description.

17 (3) To adopt a corporate seal and to alter such seal18 as necessary or appropriate.

(4) To employ agents, employees, consultants, attorneys, and accountants, to fix their compensation, to secure such services and assistance as the board deems necessary to enable the tourism board to conduct and engage in the activities and purposes for which it is created, and, subject to the provisions of Section 5, to appoint officers in addition to those specified in Section 5.

1 (5) To make bylaws for the management and regulation 2 of the tourism board's affairs, including the appointment of 3 committees, upon resolution of the board.

4 (6) To enter into contracts and execute all
5 instruments necessary or convenient to lease, purchase, and
6 own real or personal property used in furtherance of the
7 purposes for the accomplishment of which the tourism board is
8 created.

9 (7) To accept or receive gifts, bequests, devises, 10 and all other types of funds, both public and private, 11 regardless of the source, subject to all applicable laws, and 12 to expend all such funds to carry out the purposes of the 13 tourism board.

14 (8) To provide funds directly or indirectly to third
15 parties in connection with any public program, sporting or
16 other event, or advertising campaign to carry out the purposes
17 herein stated.

(9) To borrow money, execute notes, and other
evidence of indebtedness which may be required by the lender,
and pledge anticipated revenue or income to secure payment of
loans.

(10) To mortgage, pledge or otherwise convey itsproperty and its revenues from any source.

(11) To mortgage or pledge any or all of its assets
 or properties or any part or parts thereof, whether then owned

or thereafter acquired, as security for the payment of the principal of and the interest and premium, if any, on any debt incurred by it.

(d) At the discretion of the board, the tourism 4 5 board may operate on the basis of either a calendar year or a fiscal year that is identical to the fiscal year then being 6 7 used by the county. The tourism board shall each year adopt an 8 annual budget for the then next succeeding calendar or fiscal 9 year, whichever is applicable, which budget may thereafter 10 from time to time be altered, amended or modified, all as the Board may determine to be advisable. The board, not less than 11 30 days prior to approval by it of any proposed annual budget, 12 13 shall cause a copy of such proposed budget to be provided to 14 both of the following:

(1) The governing body and, if the mayor is not a
member of such governing body, the mayor of each municipality
in which the county lodging tax is then being collected from
persons and businesses operating in the corporate limits or
planning jurisdiction of such municipality.

(2) The governing body of the county, provided that
the county lodging tax is then being collected from persons
and businesses operating in the county, but not within the
corporate limits or planning jurisdiction of any municipality.
Any such governing body or mayor may a. submit to the board
comments or requests with respect to such proposed annual

budget, and b. request from the board such information as is reasonably related to such budget. Before adopting any such proposed annual budget, the board, in its discretion, may alter, amend, or modify such proposed budget on the basis of any such comments or requests submitted to it as provided herein, but the board shall not in any event be required or obligated to do so.

8 (e) The tourism board shall have neither the power 9 to levy any tax nor the power of eminent domain, and nothing 10 herein contained shall be construed as granting any such power 11 to the tourism board.

12 Section 5. Powers of Board; Officers. (a) All powers 13 of the tourism board shall be exercised, and the tourism board 14 shall be governed, by the board or pursuant to its 15 authorization, in accordance with the provisions of this act.

(b) The board may, if and to the extent such action
is consistent with succeeding provisions of this section,
delegate to one or more of the directors, or to any one or
more of the employees, agents, or officers of the tourism
board, such duties as it deems proper.

(c) The officers of the tourism board shall consist
of a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, a treasurer, and such
other officers as the board shall deem necessary or desirable.
The board shall elect the chair, the vice chair, the
secretary, and the treasurer; and the vice chair shall serve

as chair in the event of the absence of the chair. The chair and vice chair shall be directors, and the treasurer and secretary may, but need not be, directors. One person may serve as treasurer and secretary. Each officer of the tourism board shall serve as such without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred by him or her in and about the performance of his or her duties as such officer.

8 (d) The board shall provide by resolution for the 9 dates on which the chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, or 10 any other officer shall be elected, which resolution shall 11 also specify the term or period for which each such officer 12 shall serve as such.

(e) The treasurer shall act as custodian of all
funds, from whatever sources derived, that are received by the
tourism board.

16 (f) The treasurer shall execute a fidelity bond with 17 a company authorized to write bonds in the state being surety 18 thereon, which bond shall be in an amount approved by the 19 board.

(g) Contracts of the tourism board shall be executed in the name of the tourism board by the chair and attested by the secretary. The board, by resolution, may provide for a different form of the execution of contracts and for the execution by an officer or agent other than the chair and secretary. In no event may a contract, irrespective of its

1 form and of the persons executing it, be binding unless the

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3 Section 6. Obligations Not Debts of State, County, 4 or Municipality. All agreements and obligations undertaken by 5 the tourism board shall be solely and exclusively obligations 6 of the tourism board and shall not create any obligation or 7 debt of either the state, the county, or any municipality.

contract was authorized or ratified by the board.

8 Section 7. Transfer of Funds and Assets to Tourism9 Board.

(a) The county, any municipality, and any other
public agency, authority, bureau, or body that provides
services of any kind or otherwise operates in the county, are
authorized to transfer and convey to the tourism board, with
or without consideration, both of the following:

(1) Any properties, real or personal, and any
interest therein, and all funds and assets, tangible or
intangible, relative to the ownership or operation of any such
that may be owned by the county, such municipality, or such
other public agency, authority, bureau, or body, as the case
may be, or that may be jointly owned by any two or more
thereof.

(2) Any funds owned or controlled by the county,
such municipality, or such other public agency, authority,
bureau or body, as the case may be, or jointly by any two or
more thereof, that may have been raised or allocated for any

of the purposes for which the tourism board shall have been organized, whether or not such property is considered necessary for the conduct of the governmental or public functions of the county, the municipality, or other public agency, authority, bureau, or body.

(b) Each transfer or conveyance shall be authorized 6 by an ordinance or resolution duly adopted by the governing 7 8 body of the county or municipality, or by the board of directors or other governing body of the public agency, 9 10 authority, or body, all as the case may be. It shall not be 11 necessary, any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, to obtain any permit for any such transfer or 12 13 conveyance.

14 Section 8. Distribution of County Lodging Tax. The 15 state Department of Revenue shall distribute the net proceeds 16 of the county lodging tax as provided in this section:

17 (1) Prior to the organization of the tourism board 18 hereunder, the net proceeds of the county lodging tax 19 collected from persons and businesses operating in the corporate limits or planning jurisdiction of any municipality 20 21 shall be distributed to that municipality; and the net 22 proceeds of the county lodging tax collected from persons and 23 businesses operating in the county, but not within the 24 corporate limits or planning jurisdiction of any municipality, 25 shall be distributed to the county. The provisions of this

subdivision shall become operative on the first day of the second calendar month next succeeding the effective date of this act, as determined pursuant to Section 16, but subject, however, to the effectuation of the succeeding provisions of this section.

6 (2) Subsequent to the organization of the tourism 7 board hereunder, there shall be distributed directly to the 8 tourism board 75 percent of the net proceeds of the county 9 lodging tax that are collected from persons and businesses 10 operating in either of the following:

a. The corporate limits or planning jurisdiction ofany municipality.

b. The county, but not within the corporate limitsor planning jurisdiction of any municipality.

All such proceeds so distributed to the tourism board may be used by it for any purpose for which it is created.

18 (3) Subsequent to the organization of the tourism 19 board, there shall be distributed directly to each municipality 25 percent of the net proceeds of the county 20 21 lodging tax that are collected from persons and businesses 22 operating in the corporate limits or the planning jurisdiction 23 of that municipality. All such proceeds so distributed to any municipality must be either a. used by it for the promotion of 24 25 tourism, recreation, conventions, sporting events, and other

1 activities that advertise either or both the county and that 2 municipality or that attract people to visit the county or 3 that municipality, or b. appropriated and paid over by it to 4 the tourism board.

5 (4) Subsequent to the organization of the tourism board hereunder, there shall be distributed directly to the 6 county 25 percent of the net proceeds of the county lodging 7 8 tax that are collected from persons and businesses operating 9 in the county, but not within the corporate limits or planning 10 jurisdiction of any municipality. All proceeds so distributed to the county must be either a. used by it for the promotion 11 of tourism, recreation, conventions, sporting events, and 12 13 other activities that advertise either or both the county and 14 any municipality or that attract people to visit the county or 15 any municipality, or b. appropriated and paid over by it to 16 the tourism board.

17 (5) Notwithstanding anything in subdivision (1) to 18 the contrary, the provisions of subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) 19 shall become operative on the first day of the calendar month 20 next succeeding the date on which the tourism board comes into 21 existence, as determined pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 22 2.

23 Section 9. Earnings of Tourism Board. The tourism 24 board shall be a public corporation and no part of its net 25 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 determines that sufficient provision has been made for the full payment of the expenses and other obligations of the tourism board, any portion, as determined by the board, of the net earnings of the tourism board thereafter accruing may be paid to the City of Florence.

Section 10. Exemption from Usury and Interest Laws.
The tourism board shall be exempt from all laws of the state
governing usury or prescribing or limiting interest rates,
including, but not limited to, Chapter 8 of Title 8 of the
Code of Alabama 1975.

Section 11. Exemption from Taxation. All property of 12 13 the tourism board, whether real, personal or mixed, and the 14 income therefrom, all notes or other evidences of indebtedness 15 executed or issued by the tourism board and the income 16 therefrom, and all instruments executed as security therefor, 17 all leases made pursuant to the provisions of this act and all revenues derived from any such leases, and all deeds and other 18 19 documents executed by or delivered to the tourism board, shall 20 be exempt from any and all taxation by the state, or by the county, any municipality, or any other political subdivision 21 22 of the state, including, but without limitation to, license and excise taxes imposed in respect of the privilege of 23 24 engaging in any of the activities in which the tourism board 25 may engage. The tourism board shall not be obligated to pay or

allow any fees, taxes or costs to the judge of probate of any 1 2 county in respect of the recording of any document. Further, 3 the gross proceeds of the sale of any property used in the construction and equipment of any properties for the tourism 4 5 board, regardless of whether such sale is to the tourism board or to any contractor or agent thereof, shall be exempt from 6 7 the sales tax imposed by Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 40 8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, and from all other sales and similar excise taxes now or hereafter levied on or with 9 10 respect to the gross proceeds of any such sale by the state or 11 by the county, any municipality, or any other political 12 subdivision or instrumentality of any thereof; and any 13 property used in the construction and equipment of any 14 property for the tourism board, regardless of whether such 15 property has been purchased by the tourism board or by any 16 contractor or agent thereof, shall be exempt from the use tax 17 imposed by Article 2 of Chapter 23 of Title 40 of the Code of 18 Alabama 1975, and all other use and similar excise taxes now 19 or hereafter levied on or with respect to any such property by the state, the county, any municipality, or any other 20 21 political subdivision or instrumentality of any thereof.

22 Section 12. Dissolution of Tourism Board. At any 23 time when the tourism board does not have any debt 24 outstanding, and when there shall be no other obligations 25 assumed by the tourism board that are then outstanding, the

board may adopt a resolution, which shall be duly entered upon 1 2 its minutes, declaring that the tourism board should be 3 dissolved; provided, however, that no such resolution may be adopted except upon the affirmative vote of not less than four 4 5 directors, with such vote having been taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the minutes of the board. After the adoption 6 of such a resolution by the board, and only if the governing 7 8 bodies of the county and the City of Florence each adopt a 9 resolution, which shall be duly entered upon their respective 10 minutes, approving the dissolution of the tourism board, then, 11 upon the filing for record in the office of the judge of 12 probate of the county of a certified copy of each such 13 resolution, the tourism board shall thereupon stand dissolved; 14 and in the event that it owned any assets or property at the 15 time of its dissolution, the title to all its assets and 16 property shall, subject to any constitutional provision or 17 inhibition to the contrary, thereupon vest in the City of 18 Florence. In no event may the tourism board be dissolved 19 hereunder except upon the adoption of appropriate resolutions by the board and by the respective governing bodies of the 20 21 county and the City of Florence.

22 Section 13. Formation of Only One Tourism Board. 23 Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the 24 organization or formation hereunder of more than one tourism 25 board. Section 14. Repeal of Inconsistent Laws. All special or local laws, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent or in conflict with this act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.

5 Section 15. Severability. In the event that any 6 provision of this act shall be held or declared invalid or 7 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such 8 holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other 9 provision hereof.

10 Section 16. Effective Date. This act shall become 11 effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the 12 Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

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4		Speaker of the House of Repr	esentatives		
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6		President and Presiding Office	er of the Senate		
7		House of Representatives			
8 9 10	I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 13-MAR-14. Jeff Woodard Clerk				
10 11 12 13					
14					
15	Senate	20-MAR-14	Amended and Passed		
16	House	20-MAR-14	Concurred in Sen- ate Amendment		
17			_		