- 1 HB342
- 2 148970-8
- 3 By Representative Fincher
- 4 RFD: Agriculture and Forestry
- 5 First Read: 26-FEB-13

1	ENGROSSED
2	
3	
4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
7	
8	Relating to the Farmers' Market Authority; to repeal
9	Chapter 5 of Title 2, comprised of Sections 2-5-1 to 2-5-17,
10	inclusive, and Sections 2-5-30 to 2-5-39, inclusive, Code of
11	Alabama 1975, relating to the existing authority and replace
12	that chapter with Chapter 5A of Title 2, comprised of Sections
13	2-5A-1 to 2-5A-15, inclusive, and Sections 2-5A-30 to 2-5A-39,
14	inclusive; to transfer the Farmers' Market Authority to the
15	Department of Agriculture and Industries; to provide for the
16	operation, organization, and duties of the Farmer's Market
17	Authority; and to provide for the issuance of bonds by the
18	authority.
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
20	Section 1. Chapter 5A of Title 2, comprised of
21	Sections 2-5A-1 to 2-5A-15, inclusive, and Sections 2-5A-30 to
22	2-5A-39, inclusive, are added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to
23	read as follows:
24	Chapter 5A. FARMERS' MARKET AUTHORITY.
25	Article 1. General Provisions.
26	§2-5A-1.

(a) The Farmers' Market Authority is established in the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The authority shall have the powers and duties to establish agricultural markets to prevent waste and to provide marketing facilities where farm products, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, truck crops, and other agricultural commodities, and fish products, including, but not limited to, farm-raised fish, shellfish, and wild fish, may be processed, graded, packaged, displayed, or exhibited in order to encourage the buying and selling of the commodities, and to encourage the public interest, thus promoting good will between the rural and urban sectors of the State of Alabama. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Industries, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may procure by purchase, lease, rent, gift, or otherwise, necessary market sites in this state on which to conduct farmers' markets.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

(b) Notwithstanding Article 3 of Chapter 15 of Title 9, the commissioner, upon the approval of the Governor, may grant, bargain, sell, and convey all its right, title, and interest in any market which it has established and any facility installed in any market or in connection with any market upon terms and conditions as it deems expedient. The commissioner, however, may not execute a deed of conveyance to any market and market facilities, including the land on which it is located, until the department has received payment in full of an amount sufficient to reimburse the department for the expenses incurred in acquiring the land, erecting any

buildings thereon, and installing any facilities. No deed of conveyance shall be executed until the grantee agrees to continue to operate the market for the benefit of agricultural producers in the area then being served by the market, as long as this need continues to exist, pursuant to rules of operation as are prescribed by the commissioner and stipulated in the contract and deed of sale.

- serve the agricultural community as stipulated by the commissioner, the commissioner, as a means to recoup to the extent possible all moneys expended by the Department of Agriculture and Industries in establishing the market, shall obtain a certified appraisal of the market, advertise for four weeks that the market will be sold at public auction or sealed bid on a certain date, and sell the market at public auction or sealed bid with the commissioner reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and no sale shall be executed without the approval of the Governor.
- (d) No sale shall be made by the commissioner without a complete and full recitation of the facts and reasons for the sale being spread on the minutes of the Board of Agriculture and Industries and in a certificate signed by the chair certifying to the Governor that the stated facts and reasons are true to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.
- (e) All functions of the Farmers' Market Authority provided in Chapter 5 of this title, and all books, records,

supplies, funds, equipment, and personnel of the Farmers'

Market Authority existing on the effective date of this

chapter shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture

and Industries.

\$2-5A-2.

- (a) The commissioner may appoint a director who, under the supervision of the commissioner, shall administer this article. The director shall receive a salary to be fixed as provided in Section 36-6-6, payable in installments in the same manner as the salaries of other state employees are paid, and shall be allowed the same travel expenses in the performance of his or her duties as are allowed to other state employees as provided by law. The director, with the approval of the commissioner and subject to the state Merit System, shall appoint all necessary clerks, stenographers, inspectors, and other employees to administer this article. The director shall act as manager, secretary, and custodian of all records unless the commissioner shall otherwise direct. In addition to those duties already described, the director's duties shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:
- (1) Directing the overall planning, development, and administration of promotional or assistive services or programs of the authority.
- (2) Directing the development and implementation of departmental planning and budget issues.
- (3) Directing compliance activities at farmers' markets and in programs administered by the authority.

- 1 (4) Directing promotional activities of the 2 authority.
- 3 (5) Managing real property and other assets of the authority.
 - (6) Representing the authority to the public and to federal, state, and local governments.
 - (7) Managing the personnel of the authority.
 - (8) Managing the fiscal affairs of the authority.
 - (9) Writing grant proposals.
 - (10) Negotiating and administering contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.
 - (b) The director, with the approval of the commissioner, shall fix the duties of all employees of the authority. The director shall be at the time of his or her appointment a resident of the State of Alabama.

16 \$2-5A-3.

When a site has been acquired by purchase, lease, rent, gift, or otherwise, the commissioner may establish thereon a farmers' market, independent of and without the necessity of securing any permit from any municipality in which a site or sites may be located.

\$2-5A-4.

Any farmers' market, as to its location in any municipality, shall be subject to any necessary or fair municipal zoning ordinances or fire or health regulations.

This article shall not be construed as conferring the right of

eminent domain upon the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

3 \$2-5A-5.

1

2

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

The commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may make such rules as in his or her judgment may be necessary to conduct properly such farmers' market or markets, both wholesale and retail. The commissioner may provide experienced and competent persons to act as graders and classifiers on such markets. The commissioner may prescribe and designate reasonable grades and classes for farm products, truck crops, fruits, vegetables, and fish products and to enforce the same in all markets in the state. The commissioner may designate separate places on any market where fruits, vegetables, truck crops, and fish products of the different classes and grades shall be handled and kept separate. The commissioner may promulgate rules regulating or prohibiting the sale of cull produce or produce unfit for human consumption at any state farmers' market. Ripe peaches, cantaloupes, tomatoes, and other commodities of a similar nature shall not be classed as cull produce when sold in Alabama for local consumption.

\$2-5A-6.

In acquiring the sites for such market or markets and in conducting same, the commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may prescribe and collect reasonable charges to pay the necessary costs of acquiring, operating, and maintaining such sites and markets, may erect

the necessary buildings, and may conduct the markets as provided by law.

\$2-5A-7.

Whenever any farm products are found on any market in this state in such condition that they are unfit for food, it shall be the duty of the commissioner or his or her duly authorized agent to forbid the same from being sold in this state, the same as is now done with other food and feeds.

\$2-5A-8.

The commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may make and promulgate such rules as in his or her judgment may be necessary to enforce this article. The rules shall be promulgated by being posted for a period of 24 hours in a conspicuous place in each market established under this article and, when so promulgated, shall have the force and effect of law.

\$2-5A-9.

The commissioner, through his or her authorized agents, may eject from any farmers' market any person, and his or her property, refusing to comply with this article and the rules promulgated hereunder.

\$2-5A-10.

The commissioner, from time to time, as he or she may deem necessary, may fix minimum prices on the different grades and classes as provided for in this article and enforce the same by not permitting any person to sell any fruits, vegetables, or truck crops within the bounds of any market

established under this article, at a lower price than the minimum price fixed by the commissioner.

3 \$2-5A-11.

The commissioner, when in his or her judgment it shall be advisable and necessary, shall provide a suitable means of communication between the Board of Agriculture and Industries and the farmers' market or markets established under this article so as to facilitate the sale and exchange of farm products and fish products of all kinds.

§2-5A-12.

All funds collected under this article shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of a special fund for the use of the Department of Agriculture and Industries and shall be used solely for maintenance, repair, and capital outlay for markets and market facilities, for payment of other expenses of operations as approved by the authority, and for liquidation of costs of construction of the markets and facilities. The funds shall be paid out on warrants drawn by the state Comptroller on the state Treasury, upon the authorization of the commissioner. After the effective date of this article, all funds remaining in the original Farmers' Market Authority Fund #0360 shall transfer into a newly created Farmers' Market Authority Fund for use by the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

\$2-5A-13.

No provision of this article shall be construed to apply to any producer of this state who sells his or her own

produce directly to the consumer outside of the state markets established under this article.

\$2-5A-14.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

To assure the liquidation of the costs incurred in the installation of facilities at farmers' markets, notwithstanding Article 3 (commencing with Section 9-15-70) of Chapter 15 of Title 9, the commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may enter into contracts whereby persons who desire space or facilities at the markets may lease the facilities or space as necessary for their operation for a term not exceeding 30 years. The contract or lease, or both, shall contain provisions for the termination of the contract or lease, or both, upon the breach of the conditions therein or upon the failure to comply with the rules promulgated by the commissioner. The venue of any action resulting from the termination of such a lease or contract, or both, shall be in Montgomery County. If there be any default by the municipality, county, state, or any public corporation or state agency in the payment of any installment of rent or the performance of any agreement required to be made or performed under the provisions of any lease agreement, the corporation and the trustee, under any indenture, shall have and may exercise any one or more of the following remedies:

(1) By mandamus, injunction, or other proceedings, compel performance by the officials of such lessee of their duties respecting payment of the rentals required to be paid and the performance of the agreements on the part of such

- lessee required to be performed under any such lease agreement.
 - (2) Obtain a judgment against such lessee for all monetary payments required to be made by such lessee under the provisions of such lease agreement with respect to which the lessee is then in default.
- 7 (3) Terminate the lease and take possession of the project or part thereof leased to such lessee.
- 9 (4) Exercise any other remedy provided for in the lease.
- 11 §2-5A-15.

3

5

6

17

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

The county commission of any county and the
governing body of any municipality may make such
appropriations as, in their discretion, may be deemed
necessary or proper to assist in the establishment of farmers'
markets under this article.

Article 2. Bond Issuance Authorized.

18 \$2-5A-30.

Whenever used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings, respectively, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) BONDS. Those bonds, including the refunding bonds, issued under and pursuant to the provisions of this article.
- (2) GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. Any bonds or other obligations which as to principal and interest constitute direct obligations of, or are unconditionally guaranteed by,

the United States of America, including obligations of any federal agency to the extent such obligations are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States of America and any certificates or any other evidences of an ownership interest in such obligations of, or unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States of America or in specified portions thereof, which may consist of the principal thereof or the interest thereon.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

(3) PERMITTED INVESTMENTS. (i) Government securities; (ii) bonds, debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued by any of the following agencies: bank for cooperatives; federal intermediate credit banks; Federal Financing Bank; federal home loan banks; Federal Farm Credit Bank; Export-Import Bank of the United States; federal land banks; or Farmers Home Administration or any other agency or corporation which has been or may hereafter be created by or pursuant to an act of the Congress of the United States as an agency or instrumentality thereof; (iii) bonds, notes, pass through securities or other evidences of indebtedness of Government National Mortgage Association and participation certificates of Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; (iv) full faith and credit obligations of any state, provided that at the time of purchase such obligations are rated at least "AA" by Standard & Poor's Corporation and at least "Aa" by Moody's Investors Service; (v) public housing bonds issued by public agencies or municipalities and fully secured as to the payment of both principal and interest by contracts with the

United States of America, or temporary notes, preliminary notes or project notes issued by public agencies or municipalities, in each case fully secured as to the payment of both principal and interest by a requisition or payment agreement with the United States of America; (vi) time deposits evidenced by certificates of deposit issued by banks or savings and loan associations which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, provided that, to the extent such time deposits are not covered by federal deposit insurance, such time deposits, including interest thereon, are fully secured by a pledge of obligations described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) above, which at all times have a market value not less than the amount of such bank time deposits required to be so secured and which meet the greater of 100 percent collateralization or the "AA" collateral levels established by Standard & Poor's Corporation for structured financings; (vii) repurchase agreements for obligations of the type specified in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (v) above, provided such repurchase agreements are fully collateralized and secured by such obligations which have a market value at least equal to the purchase price of such repurchase agreements which are held by a depository satisfactory to the State Treasurer in such manner as may be required to provide a prefected security interest in such obligations, and which meet the greater of 100 percent collateralization or the "AA" collateral levels established by Standard & Poor's Corporation for structured financings; and (viii) uncollateralized

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

investment agreements with, or certificates of deposit issued by, banks or bank holding companies, the senior long-term securities of which are rated at least "AA" by Standard & Poor's Corporation and at least "Aa" by Moody's Investors Service.

(4) REFUNDING BONDS. Those refunding bonds issued under and pursuant to Section 2-5A-35.

\$2-5A-31.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

The commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, in addition to all other powers previously conferred upon it, may issue and sell its bonds in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, renovating, equipping, and maintaining farmers' market facilities which the Department of Agriculture and Industries may establish pursuant to Section 2-5A-1. The bonds shall be in such form or forms and denomination or denominations and of such tenor and maturities, shall bear such rate or rates of interest payable and evidenced in such manner, shall be made subject to redemption prior to their maturities, and shall contain provisions not inconsistent with this article, all as may be provided by the resolution under which the bonds may be issued; provided, that those bonds having maturities more than 10 years after their date shall be subject to redemption at the option of the commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, on any interest payment date on

and after the tenth anniversary after their date at such redemption price and under such conditions as may be prescribed in the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture and Industries under which they are issued.

\$2-5A-32.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

The bonds shall be signed by the chair or vice chair of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, and the seal of the Department of Agriculture and Industries shall be affixed thereto, or a facsimile thereof imprinted thereon, and attested by the secretary of the board. All signatures of the chair, vice chair, and secretary may be facsimile signatures if the proceedings under which the bonds are issued provide for the manual authentication of such bonds by a trustee or paying agent or by named individuals who are employees of the State of Alabama and who are assigned to the Department of Finance or office of the State Treasurer. The seal of the Department of Agriculture and Industries shall be impressed on the bonds and a facsimile of such seal may be printed or otherwise reproduced on any of the bonds in lieu of being manually impressed thereon. Delivery of bonds so executed shall be valid notwithstanding any changes in officers subsequent to the signing of such bonds. For the purpose of paying the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the bonds, the commissioner shall designate the State Treasurer. Funds for the payment of debt service shall be transferred by the Department of Agriculture and Industries to the State

Treasurer on the actual due date of such principal, premium,
if any, or interest.

3 \$2-5A-33.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

The bonds may be sold by the Department of Agriculture and Industries from time to time in series. Each series of the bonds shall be sold at competitive bid and at such price or prices and at such time or times as the commissioner may consider advantageous. Bonds sold by competitive bid shall be sold, whether on sealed bids or at public auction, to the bidder whose bid reflects the lowest effective borrowing cost to the Department of Agriculture and Industries on the series of bonds being sold; provided, that if no bid acceptable to the commissioner is received, he or she may reject all bids. Summary notice of each such sale shall be given by publication in either a financial journal or a financial newspaper published in the City of New York, New York, and also by publication in a newspaper published in the State of Alabama which is customarily published not less often than three days during each calendar week, each of which notices must be published at least one time not less than 10 days prior to the date fixed for the sale or, in the event no bid acceptable to the commissioner is received at any such sale and the bonds so offered are thereafter reoffered on the same terms and conditions, not less than five days prior to the date fixed for sale. Neither a public hearing nor consent of the state Department of Finance or any other department or

agency shall be a prerequisite to the issuance of any of the bonds.

3 \$2-5A-34.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

The bonds shall not be general obligations of the Department of Agriculture and Industries but shall be limited obligations payable solely from one or more specified sources, including, but not limited to, revenues derived from market charges, authorized under Section 2-5A-6, lease revenues, authorized under Section 2-5-16 2-5A-14, and appropriations made under Section 2-5-17 2-5A-15. The commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, may pledge all or any portion of such revenues as security for the payment of the bonds. All such pledges made by the commissioner shall take precedence in the order of the adoption of the resolutions containing the pledges. The commissioner may also obtain credit enhancement for the department's bonds, including, but not limited to, bond insurance and letters of credit, and to pledge all or a portion of its revenues as security for its reimbursement obligations with respect thereto. All bonds issued by the Department of Agriculture and Industries pursuant to the provisions hereof shall be solely and exclusively obligations of the Department of Agriculture and Industries and shall not be an obligation or debt of the State of Alabama or any county or any municipality within the State of Alabama.

§2-5A-35.

(a) Any bonds issued by the Department of Agriculture and Industries pursuant to this article may from time to time thereafter be refunded by the issuance of refunding bonds of the Department of Agriculture and Industries; provided, however, that no refunding bonds shall be issued unless the present value of all debt service on the refunding bonds, computed with a discount rate equal to the true interest rate of the refunding bonds and taking into account all underwriting discount and issuance expenses, shall not be greater than 97 percent of the present value of all debt service on the bonds to be refunded, computed using the same discount rate and taking into account the underwriting discount and other issuance expenses originally applicable to such bonds, determined as if such bonds to be refunded were paid and retired in accordance with the schedule of maturities, considering mandatory redemption as a scheduled maturity, provided at the time of their issuance. Such refunding bonds may be sold and issued from time to time, at either public or private sale, and on such other terms and conditions as the commissioner, with approval of the Board of Agriculture and Industries, shall determine to be advantageous and shall adopt and provide for in its proceedings for the sale and issuance of such refunding bonds. Any such refunding bonds may be issued whether the bonds to be refunded shall have then matured or shall thereafter mature, and such refunding may be effected either by sale of the refunding bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

payment or redemption of the bonds so refunded or by exchange of the refunding bonds for those to be refunded thereby.

(b) The proceeds derived from any sale of refunding bonds remaining after payment of the expenses of their issuance shall be applied in accordance with the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture and Industries under which such refunding bonds are issued. Pending the application of the proceeds to the purchase, redemption, or payment of such outstanding bonds, such proceeds may be invested in permitted investments pursuant to a trust agreement providing for the future application of such proceeds to the purchase, redemption, or payment of such outstanding bonds. Bonds refunded prior to their maturity with the proceeds of refunding bonds shall be deemed not outstanding if the Board of Agriculture and Industries, in the proceedings under which such refunding bonds are issued, establishes a trust fund consisting of cash or government securities, or both, sufficient to pay in accordance with the provisions of such trust fund when due, the entire principal of and interest and premium, if any, on the bonds to be refunded; provided that such government securities shall not be subject to redemption prior to their maturities other than at the option of the holder thereof.

§2-5A-36.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

A debt service reserve fund may be established and maintained in such an amount and under such conditions for any or all series of the bonds as may be determined by the Board

of Agriculture and Industries its resolution relating to the bonds. The Department of Agriculture and Industries may make payments from bond proceeds or any other funds or revenues available to it into the debt service reserve fund. Income earned from the investment of monies held in the debt service reserve fund may be used by the Department of Agriculture and Industries for any purpose designated by the Board of Agriculture and Industries that would constitute a permitted use of funds of the Department of Agriculture and Industries under Act 98-243. Monies on deposit in the debt service reserve fund shall be invested only in permitted investments and the department is authorized to determine the conditions for the utilization of the debt service reserve fund in its resolution relating to the bonds secured thereby, and by the terms of such resolution, to dedicate and pledge such fund and the investment earnings therefrom to payment of debt service on the bonds.

\$2-5A-37.

1

2

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Prior to the completion of farmers' market facilities to be financed with proceeds of bonds, any portion of the principal proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds which the commissioner may determine is not then needed for any of the purposes for which the bonds are authorized to be issued shall be invested by the State Treasurer in permitted investments which mature at such time or times as the department shall direct. At any time, and from time to time on

order of the commissioner, any such investments may be sold or otherwise converted by the State Treasurer into cash.

3 \$2-5A-38.

The Department of Agriculture and Industries, its property and income and all obligations issued by the Department of Agriculture and Industries, the income from such obligations or from the investment of such income, and all conveyances, leases, mortgages, and deeds of trust by or to the department shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of Alabama.

\$2-5A-39.

The Board of Agriculture and Industries has the power and hereby delegates power to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries to cause appropriate reports to be prepared and payments submitted to the United States of America as shall be deemed necessary to cause the interest on any bonds of the Department of Agriculture and Industries to be and remain exempt from federal income taxation. The commissioner shall have the power to make agreements respecting the investment of funds of the Department of Agriculture and Industries necessary in order that the interest income on bonds of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be and remain exempt from federal income taxation.

Section 2. Chapter 5 of Title 2, comprised of Sections 2-5-1 to 2-5-17, inclusive, and Sections 2-5-30 to 2-5-39, inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975, is repealed.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

1	
2	
3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7 8	Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Agriculture and Forestry
9 10 11	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment 07-MAR-13
12 13 14	Read for the third time and passed as amended 25-APR-13 Yeas 94, Nays 2, Abstains 0
15 16 17 18	Jeff Woodard Clerk