- 1 SB368
- 2 150483-1
- 3 By Senator Ward
- 4 RFD: Children, Youth Affairs, and Human Resources
- 5 First Read: 04-APR-13

1	150483-1:n:03/19/2013:ANS/mfc LRS2013-1536			
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8	SYNOPSIS:	Under existing law, the Alabama Family		
9		Trust was established to supplement the basic		
10		support provided by state government and other		
11		governmental programs and provide for medical,		
12		social, or other supplemental services for persons		
13		with a physical or mental impairment that		
14		substantially limits one or more major life		
15		activities as determined by the Social Security		
16		Administration.		
17		Under existing law, the word donor is used		
18		to refer to a person or entity who contributes		
19		assets to the Alabama Family Trust to establish an		
20		account for a life beneficiary.		
21		This bill would replace the word donor with		
22		either contributor, any person who contributes		
23		assets to the account of the life beneficiary, or		
24		settlor, any person who establishes an Alabama		
25		Family Trust account for a life beneficiary.		
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27		A BILL		

1	TO BE ENTITLED			
2	AN ACT			
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4	To amend Sections 38-9B-2, 38-9B-3, 38-9B-5,			
5	38-9B-6, and 38-9B-7, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the			
6	Alabama Family Trust; to delete the definition of donor; to			
7	provide further for the definition of contributor; and to add			
8	the term settlor and provide for its definition.			
9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:			
10	Section 1. Sections 38-9B-2, 38-9B-3, 38-9B-5,			
11	38-9B-6, and 38-9B-7, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to			
12	read as follows:			
13	"§38-9B-2.			
14	"As used in this chapter, the following words shall			
15	have the following meanings:			
16	"(1) ALABAMA FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST (AFT CHARITABLE			
17	TRUST). The trust established by the board of trustees that			
18	qualifies as a tax exempt charitable entity under the United			
19	States Internal Revenue Code, to provide benefits for			
20	individuals for whom no contribution to the any individual who			
21	does not have a sufficient amount in his or her AFT Trust has			
22	been made to meet the individual's needs.			
23	"(2) ALABAMA FAMILY TRUST (AFT TRUST). The Alabama			
24	Family Trust established pursuant to this chapter.			
25	"(3) ALABAMA FAMILY TRUST CORPORATION (AFT			
26	CORPORATION). An Alabama not-for-profit corporation			
27	established by the board of trustees pursuant to this chapter			

- that qualifies as a tax exempt charitable organization under
 the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- 3 "(4) BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The Alabama Family Trust 4 Board of Trustees established pursuant to this chapter.

- "(5) COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health.
- "(6) CONTRIBUTION. The balance of all amounts placed in a particular account but not including any appreciation in value of investments or accretions thereto resulting from any source, such as dividends, interest, and capital gains. In no event shall contribution mean more than the total of all contributions made to a particular account.
- "(7) CONTRIBUTOR. Any person who makes a donation directly to the AFT Corporation or the AFT Charitable Trust.
- "(8) CO-TRUSTEE. Any person named by the donor settlor to work with the board of trustees trustee in providing benefits to a life beneficiary, except neither the donor a contributor nor the donor's a contributor's spouse shall be the co-trustee if the donor contributor or the donor's contributor's spouse is the life beneficiary.
- "(9) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Mental Health.
- "(10) DONOR. Any person who contributes assets to the AFT Trust to establish an account for a life beneficiary.
- "(11) (10) IMPAIRMENT. A mental or physical disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities, whether the impairment is congenital or acquired

1	by accident, injury, age, or disease, and where the impairment					
2	is verified by medical findings that meet the					
3	medical-vocational requirements for a finding of disability					
4	under Section 223(d) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.					
5	Section 423(d), or under Section 1614 of the Social Security					
6	Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1382c.					
7	" (12) <u>(11)</u> LIFE BENEFICIARY. A beneficiary					
8	designated by a donor to the AFT Trust settlor.					
9	" $\frac{(13)}{(12)}$ NET INCOME. The earnings received on					
10	investments less expenses and fees for administration.					
11	" $\frac{(14)}{(13)}$ REQUESTING PARTY. The party requesting					
12	arbitration of a dispute regarding benefits to be provided by					
13	the AFT Trust.					
14	" $\frac{(15)}{(14)}$ RESPONDING PARTY. The party not					
15	requesting arbitration of a dispute regarding benefits to be					
16	provided by the AFT Trust.					
17	"(15) SETTLOR. A person who establishes an AFT Trust					
18	account for a life beneficiary.					
19	"(16) SUCCESSOR LIFE BENEFICIARY. A successor life					
20	beneficiary designated by the donor settlor to the AFT Trust,					
21	who is a legal sibling of the life beneficiary and who					
22	otherwise qualifies as a life beneficiary under the conditions					
23	of this chapter.					
24	"(17) SUCCESSOR TRUST. The trust established upon					
25	distribution by the board of trustees pursuant to notice of					
26	agreement of withdrawal or termination with a co-trustee and					
27	administered as set forth in this chapter.					

1	" (18)	SUCCESSOR	TRUSTEE.	. The	trustee	as desid	gnated
2	by the donor wh	o shall ad	lminister	the	successor	trust.	

"(19) (17) TRUSTEE. A member of the The Alabama
Family Trust Board of Trustees Corporation.

"\$38-9B-3.

"(a) Donors Contributors may supplement the care, support, habilitation, and treatment of impaired persons pursuant to this chapter. Neither the contribution to the AFT Trust for the benefit of a life beneficiary nor the use of AFT Trust income assets to provide benefits shall in any way reduce, impair, or diminish the benefits to which a person is otherwise entitled by law. The establishment and administration of the AFT Trust shall not be taken into consideration in appropriations for the department to render services required by law.

"(b) The assets held by the board of trustees

trustee and assets held in the AFT Trust and the AFT

Charitable Trust pursuant to this chapter shall not be

considered state money, assets of the state, or revenue for

any purpose of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, or statute

or any other state's constitution or statute. The assets held

by the board of trustees trustee and its income and operations

shall be exempt from all state and local taxation.

"§38-9B-5.

"(a) The board of trustees shall establish and administer the AFT Corporation. The board of trustees shall execute all documents necessary to establish and administer

the AFT Corporation including, but not limited to, documents to form a not-for-profit corporation and to qualify as an organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

- "(b) The AFT Corporation shall establish the AFT Trust and the AFT Charitable Trust, and the board of trustees shall administer the AFT Trust and the AFT Charitable Trust through the AFT Corporation. The board of trustees and the AFT Corporation shall take all steps necessary to satisfy all federal and state laws to ensure that the AFT Trust and the AFT Charitable Trust are qualified to supplement the provision of government entitlement funding and, where necessary, are qualified as tax exempt entities under the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- "(c) The documents establishing the AFT Trust shall include and be limited by the following:
- "(1) To be eligible to participate in the AFT Trust, a life beneficiary must suffer from an impairment as defined in this chapter.
- "(2) The AFT Trust may accept contributions from any source, so long as basic eligibility requirements are satisfied, to be held, administered, managed, invested, and distributed in order to facilitate the coordination and integration of private financing for individuals who have an impairment, while maintaining the eligibility of those individuals for government entitlement funding. Contributions and earnings of the AFT Trust may be administered as one trust

1 for purposes of investment and management of funds.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, separate accounts shall be

3 established for each designated life beneficiary. The net

income earned shall be credited to the accounts of the life

beneficiaries in proportion to the fair market value that each

account has to the total fair market value of all accounts.

7 Administrative fees and administrative expenses may be charged

8 directly to an account of a life beneficiary, except that

administrative fees shall not exceed the income allocated to

10 that account.

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- "(3) Every donor settlor shall designate a specific person as the life beneficiary of the contribution made by the donor contributor. In addition, each donor settlor shall name a co-trustee, including the donor and a successor or successors to the co-trustee, to act with the trustees of the AFT Trust trustee on behalf of the designated life beneficiary. Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither a life beneficiary, or his or her spouse, shall not be eligible to be a co-trustee or a successor co-trustee.
- "(4) If a donor <u>settlor</u> designates himself or herself or his or her a contributor or the contributor's spouse as the life beneficiary, then the account of the life beneficiary shall, regardless of any other provision of this chapter, meet the following additional conditions:
 - "(i) The AFT Trust shall be irrevocable.
- "(ii) The amounts remaining in the life beneficiary's account upon the death of the life beneficiary

shall be first dispersed to the AFT Corporation, as agent for all purposes of the State of Alabama, as reimbursement for any funds owed to the State of Alabama, or to any other state, the District of Columbia or any other commonwealth, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for medical assistance paid on behalf of the life beneficiary under the plan of the respective jurisdiction, and the balance, if any, shall be dispersed in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the AFT Corporation. All sums received by the AFT Corporation, as agent for the State of Alabama, shall be distributed, as appropriate, by the AFT Corporation.

"(iii) Neither the donor a contributor nor the donor's contributor's spouse shall serve as co-trustee.

contributor or contributor's spouse who has not been designated himself or herself or his or her spouse as the life beneficiary, may revoke any his or her contribution made to the AFT Trust. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any donor contributor may, at any time, voluntarily waive the right to revoke by written notice. If at the time the donor revokes, by written notice, the contribution to the AFT Trust and the life beneficiary has not received any benefits provided by the use of the AFT Trust income or principal at the time the contributor revokes the contribution to the AFT Trust, then an amount equal to the current fair market value of the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust as determined on the date of distribution shall be returned to

the donor contributor. If at the time a donor contributor revokes the contribution to the AFT Trust and the life beneficiary has received any benefit provided by the use of trust income or principal, then an amount equal to 95 percent of the current fair market value of the principal balance of the life beneficiary account in the AFT Trust as determined on the date of distribution shall be returned to the donor contributor. The remaining balance of the life beneficiary account shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust.

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"(6) The co-trustee, with the consent of the trustee, annually shall agree on the amount of income or principal, or both, to be used to provide non-cash benefits in the best interest of of the nature and type of benefits to be provided to the life beneficiary. Such permissible benefits shall include, but not be limited to, more sophisticated dental, medical, and diagnostic work or treatment than is otherwise available from public assistance, private rehabilitative training, supplementary education aid, entertainment, periodic vacations and outings, expenditures to foster the interests, talents, and hobbies of the life beneficiary, and expenditures to purchase personal property and services which will make life more comfortable and enjoyable for the life beneficiary but which will not defeat his or her eligibility for public assistance. Expenditures may include payment of the funeral and burial costs of the life beneficiary. The trustee or co-trustee, in his or her discretion, may make payments from time to time for a person

to accompany the life beneficiary on vacations and outings and for the transportation of the life beneficiary or of friends and relatives of the life beneficiary to visit the life beneficiary. Expenditures shall not be made for the primary support or maintenance of the life beneficiary, including basic food, shelter, and clothing, if, as a result the life beneficiary would no longer be eligible to receive public benefits or assistance to which the life beneficiary would otherwise be entitled. Any net income which is not used shall be added annually to the principal.

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"(7) In the event that the trustees and the co-trustee shall be unable to agree either on the amount of income or principal, or income and principal, to be used or the benefits to be provided, then either the trustees or the co-trustee may request that the matter be resolved by arbitration. The requesting party shall send a written request for arbitration to the responding party and shall in the request set forth the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party's arbitrator. The responding party shall, within 10 days, after receipt of the request for arbitration, set forth in writing to the requesting party the name, address, and telephone number of the responding party's arbitrator. Copies of the request for arbitration and response shall be sent to the commissioner of the department. If the two designated arbitrators are unable to agree upon a third arbitrator within 10 days after the responding party has identified the responding party's arbitrator, then the

commissioner shall designate the third arbitrator by written notice to the requesting and responding parties' arbitrators. The three arbitrators shall meet and render a decision within 30 calendar days after the appointment of the third arbitrator. A decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be binding upon the requesting and responding parties. Each party shall pay the fees and expenses of the party's arbitrator and the fees and expenses of the third arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties.

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"(8) Any acting co-trustee, other than the donor may, for good and sufficient reason upon written notice to the trustees, revoke any contribution made to the AFT Trust and direct withdrawal of all of the current fair market value of the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust as determined on the date of distribution. In no event shall a co-trustee be entitled to direct withdrawal of only a portion of the current fair market value of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust. In the event of withdrawal, the applicable portion, determined as set forth below in subdivision (10), of the current fair market value of the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, as determined on the date of distribution, shall be distributed to the successor trust and the remaining balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust.

"(9) (8) If a life beneficiary for whose benefit a contribution has been made to the AFT Trust ceases to be

eligible to participate in the AFT Trust, and neither the donor nor the then acting co-trustee revokes contributor does not revoke or withdraws withdraw the applicable balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, then the board of trustees trustee may, by written notice to the donor contributor or acting co-trustee, terminate the AFT Trust as to such life beneficiary. Upon termination, the board of trustees shall distribute the applicable portion, as set forth below, of such life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust to the successor trustee of the successor trust to be held, administered, and distributed by the successor trustee in accordance with the successor trust described in subdivision (11) of this subsection.

"(10) (9) At the time of revocation and withdrawal by the co-trustee pursuant to subdivision (8) of this subsection or termination pursuant to subdivision (9) (8) of this subsection of a life beneficiary's account from the AFT Trust, if the life beneficiary has not received any benefits provided by the use of AFT Trust income or principal, or the life beneficiary has received benefits provided by the use of AFT Trust income or principal for a period of not more than five years from the date a contribution has first been made to the AFT Trust for the life beneficiary, then an amount equal to 95 percent of the current fair market value of the principal balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust as determined on the date of distribution shall be distributed to the account of the successor trust life

beneficiary, and the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust. At the time of withdrawal by the co-trustee or termination as provided above, if the life beneficiary has received any benefits provided by the use of AFT Trust income or principal for a period of more than five years from the date a contribution has first been made to an account in the AFT Trust for the life beneficiary, then an amount equal to 90 percent of the current fair market value of the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust as determined on the date of distribution shall be distributed to the account of the successor trust life beneficiary, and the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust.

"(11) (10) If the life beneficiary dies before receiving any benefits provided by the use of AFT Trust income or principal, all amounts remaining in the account of such life beneficiary shall be transferred to the account of a successor life beneficiary, if any. If there is no successor life beneficiary, then an amount equal to the current fair market value of the principal balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, as determined on the date of distribution less payment, if made by the AFT Trust, of funeral and burial costs of the life beneficiary, shall be distributed to the person or persons as the donor settlor has designated. If at the time of death of the life beneficiary, the life beneficiary has received benefits provided by the use

of AFT Trust income or principal, or both, then, after payment of funeral and burial costs of the life beneficiary, all amounts remaining in the account of such life beneficiary shall be transferred to the account of a successor life beneficiary, if any. If there is no successor life beneficiary, an amount equal to 90 percent of the current fair market value of the balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, as determined on the date of distribution, shall be distributed to the person or persons as the donor settlor has designated, and the remaining balance of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust.

"(12) (11) Upon receipt of a notice of withdrawal from a designated co-trustee, other than the donor, and a determination by the board of trustees that the reason for the withdrawal is good and sufficient or upon the issuance of a notice of termination by the board of trustees, the board of trustees shall distribute and pay over to the successor trustee of the successor trust the death of a life beneficiary where there is a successor life beneficiary, the applicable portion of the current fair market value of the life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust shall be transferred to the account of the successor life beneficiary, and the co-trustee for the successor life beneficiary, with the consent of the trustee, shall agree on the amount of income or principal, or both, to be used to provide non-cash benefits in the best interest of the successor life beneficiary. After the

death of a life beneficiary, an amount equal to 90 percent of
the current fair market value of the balance of the successor
life beneficiary's account in the AFT Trust, as determined on
the date of distribution, shall be distributed to the person
or persons as the settlor has designated, and the remaining
balance of the successor life beneficiary's account in the AFT
Trust shall be distributed to the AFT Charitable Trust. The
successor trustee of the successor trust shall hold,
administer, and distribute the principal and income of the
successor trust, in the discretion of the successor trustee,
for the maintenance, support, health, education, and general
well-being of the life beneficiary, recognizing that it is the
purpose of the successor trust to supplement, not replace, any
government benefits for the life beneficiary's basic support
to which the life beneficiary may be entitled and to increase
the quality of the life beneficiary's life by providing him or
her with those amenities which cannot otherwise be provided by
public assistance or entitlements or other available sources.
Permissible expenditures include, but are not limited to, more
sophisticated dental, medical, and diagnostic work or
treatment than is otherwise available from public assistance,
private rehabilitative training, supplementary education aid,
entertainment, periodic vacations and outings, expenditures to
foster the interests, talents, and hobbies of the life
beneficiary, and expenditures to purchase personal property
and services which will make life more comfortable and
eniovable for the life beneficiary but which will not defeat

1 his or her eligibility for public assistance. Expenditures may 2 include payment of the funeral and burial costs of the life beneficiary. The successor trustee, in his or her discretion, 3 may make payments from time to time for a person to accompany the life beneficiary on vacations and outings and for the transportation of the life beneficiary or of friends or 6 7 relatives of the life beneficiary to visit the life beneficiary. Any undistributed income of the successor trust 8 9 shall be added to the principal from time to time. Expenditures shall not be made for the primary support or 10 11 maintenance of the life beneficiary, including basic food, 12 shelter, and clothing, if, as a result, the life beneficiary 13 would no longer be eligible to receive public benefits or 14 assistance to which the life beneficiary would otherwise be entitled. After the death and burial of the life beneficiary, 15 the remaining balance of the successor trust shall be 16 17 distributed to the person or persons as the donor has designated. 18

"(d) The documents establishing the AFT Charitable
Trust shall include and be limited to the following:

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"(1) The AFT Charitable Trust shall be a charitable trust under the United States Internal Revenue Code and shall be administered as part of the AFT Trust, but as a separate account. The income attributable to the AFT Charitable Trust shall be used to provide benefits for individuals who have an impairment as determined by the department. The individuals to be beneficiaries of the AFT Charitable Trust shall be

recommended to the board of trustees by the department for the benefit of beneficiaries of AFT individual trusts who have needs that cannot be met from funds available to such life beneficiaries from their AFT individual trusts. The board of trustees and the department shall agree determine annually on the amount of AFT Charitable Trust income to be used to provide benefits and the nature and type of benefits to be provided through the department for each identified AFT life beneficiary of the AFT Charitable Trust while maintaining taking into account the individual's eligibility for government entitlement funding benefits. Any income of the AFT Charitable Trust not used shall be added annually to the principal.

"(2) The board of trustees shall accept contributions to the AFT Charitable Trust from any source and shall comply with all rules and regulations under the United States Internal Revenue Code that govern the acceptance of charitable contributions.

"§38-9B-6.

"(a) No life beneficiary shall have any vested or property rights or interests in the AFT Trust, nor shall any life beneficiary have the power to anticipate, assign, convey, alienate, or otherwise encumber any interest in the income or principal of the AFT Trust nor shall the income or principal be or any interest of any life beneficiary thereunder be liable for any debt incurred by the life beneficiary, nor shall the principal or income of the AFT Trust Fund be subject

to seizure by any creditor of any life beneficiary under any writ or proceeding in law or in equity.

"(b) Except for the right of a donor other than a donor or a donor's contributor who is not and whose spouse who is not a life beneficiary, to revoke any contribution made to the AFT Trust, pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of Section 38-9B-5, and the right of any acting co-trustee, other than the donor, to withdraw all or a portion of the contribution made to the account of a life beneficiary, pursuant to subdivision (8) of subsection (c) of Section 38-9B-5, neither the donor settlor, contributor, nor any acting co-trustee has the right to sell, assign, convey, alienate, or otherwise encumber, for consideration or otherwise, any interest in the income or the principal of the AFT Trust, nor shall the income or the principal or any interest of any life beneficiary thereunder be liable for any debt incurred by the donor settlor, contributor, or any acting co-trustee, nor shall the principal or income of the AFT Trust be subject to seizure by any creditor of any donor settlor, contributor, or any acting co-trustee under any writ or proceeding in law or in equity.

"\$38-9B-7.

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"No trustee, or co-trustee, or successor trustee serving pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall at any time be liable for any mistake of law or fact, or of both law and fact, or errors of judgment, or for any loss sustained by the AFT Trust or AFT Charitable Trust, or by any life

beneficiary, or by any other person, except through actual
fraud or willful misconduct on the part of such trustee, or
co-trustee, or successor trustee."

Section 2. 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.