

1 HB376  
2 116827-1  
3 By Representative Ward  
4 RFD: Tourism and Travel  
5 First Read: 21-JAN-10

SYNOPSIS:           This bill would establish the Alabama Trails Commission within the Department of Economic and Community Affairs to advance development, interconnection, and use of trails throughout the state. The bill would also establish an advisory board to advise the commission.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To establish the Alabama Trails Commission within the Department of Economic and Community Affairs; to provide for the duties of the commission; and to provide for an advisory board to advise the commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this act, the term "trail" means any form of paved or unpaved trail including freshwater and saltwater paddling trails. The term "trail user community" includes, but is not limited to, the

1 following: Paved and unpaved trail users, hikers, off-road  
2 bicyclists, users of off-road vehicles, paddlers, equestrians,  
3 disabled outdoor recreational users, and commercial  
4 recreational interests.

5 (b) There is created within the Alabama Department  
6 of Economic and Community Affairs the Alabama Trails  
7 Commission which shall advance development, interconnection,  
8 and use of trails in this state and as further provided in  
9 this act. The commission shall be composed of the following  
10 members:

11 (1) Two members recognized for expertise in trail  
12 development, management, or use, appointed by the Governor  
13 representing the trail user community.

14 (2) One member recognized for expertise in trail  
15 development, management, or use, appointed by the Lieutenant  
16 Governor representing the trail user community.

17 (3) One member recognized for expertise in trail  
18 development, management, or use, appointed by the Speaker of  
19 the House of Representatives representing the trail user  
20 community.

21 (4) One member appointed by the Director of the  
22 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).

23 (5) One member appointed by the Director of the  
24 state Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

25 (6) One member appointed by the Director of the  
26 Department of Tourism.

1           (7) One member appointed by the Commissioner of the  
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

3           (8) One staff member from the Governor's office  
4 appointed by the Governor.

5           (9) One member who shall be a representative of the  
6 regional planning councils appointed by the Governor.

7 Membership on the council shall rotate among the 12 regional  
8 planning councils every two years. The regional planning  
9 councils shall determine the order of rotation.

10           (10) One member representing local governments to be  
11 appointed by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama  
12 and the Alabama League of Municipalities. Membership shall  
13 alternate between a county representative and a municipal  
14 representative every two years.

15           (11) One member appointed by the Business Council of  
16 Alabama.

17           (c) The term of all appointees shall be for two  
18 years unless otherwise specified. The appointees of the  
19 Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the  
20 House of Representatives may be reappointed for no more than  
21 two consecutive terms. The representatives of the regional  
22 planning councils and local governments may be reappointed for  
23 no more than two consecutive terms. All other appointees shall  
24 serve until a successor is appointed.

25           (d) The membership of the commission shall be  
26 inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,  
27 urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

1           (e) The Alabama Department of Economic and Community  
2       Affairs shall provide necessary staff assistance to the  
3       commission.

4           (f) The duties of the commission shall include the  
5       following:

6           (1) Develop and support the Alabama Trails System.

7           (2) Facilitate a statewide system of interconnected  
8       landscape linkages, conservation corridors, greenbelts,  
9       recreational corridors and trails, scenic corridors,  
10      utilitarian corridors, reserves, regional parks and preserves,  
11      ecological sites, and cultural/historic/recreational sites  
12      using land-based trails that connect urban, suburban, and  
13      rural areas of the state and facilitate expansion of the  
14      statewide system of freshwater and saltwater paddling trails.

15          (3) Recommend priorities for critical links in the  
16      Alabama Trails System and coordinate local needs goals and  
17      leadership to accomplish this mission.

18          (4) Review designation proposals for inclusion in  
19      the Alabama Trails System.

20          (5) Encourage public-private partnerships to develop  
21      and manage trails.

22          (6) Review progress toward meeting goals for the  
23      establishment and operation of the Alabama Trail System and  
24      recommend appropriate action.

25          (7) Make recommendations for updating and revising  
26      the implementation plan for the Alabama Trails System.

27          (8) Promote trail support organizations.

1           (9) Support the Alabama Trails System through  
2           intergovernmental coordination, advocacy, education,  
3           alternative funding sources, and any other appropriate way.

4           (10) Organize and coordinate a non-profit tax  
5           deductible corporation that should be expected to aggressively  
6           serve Alabama Trails in enterprises normally beyond the reach  
7           of government, such as fund-raising, coordination of local and  
8           national institutions similarly intended, and supporting  
9           education and civic outreach.

10          (g) The commission shall establish procedures for  
11          conducting its affairs in execution of the duties and  
12          responsibilities stated in this section, which operating  
13          procedures shall include determination of a council chair and  
14          other appropriate operational guidelines. The commission shall  
15          meet at the call of the chair, or at other times as may be  
16          prescribed by its operating procedures. The commission may  
17          establish committees to conduct the work of the commission and  
18          the committees may include nonmembers as appropriate.

19          (h) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled for  
20          the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the  
21          original appointment. Members whose terms have expired may  
22          continue to serve until replaced or reappointed.

23          (i) The commission shall report annually to the  
24          Legislature by the second legislative day of each regular  
25          session detailing progress, plans, and milestones in its  
26          conduct of duties authorized by this act and to what extent

1 the commission is in compliance with the diversity provisions  
2 provided for in this act.

3 Section 2. (a) There shall also be created within  
4 the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs an  
5 Alabama Trails Commission Advisory Board which shall advise  
6 the commission in the execution of the Alabama Trails  
7 Commission's powers and duties under this act. The advisory  
8 board of directors shall be composed of the following:

9 (1) Two Senators appointed by the Lieutenant  
10 Governor.

11 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

13 (3) Three members of the Alabama Recreational Trails  
14 Advisory Board.

15 (4) One member representing a university in this  
16 state appointed by the Governor.

17 (5) One member appointed by the State Forestry  
18 Commission.

19 (6) One member appointed by the Commissioner of  
20 Agriculture and Industries.

21 (7) One member appointed by the State Health  
22 Officer.

23 (8) One member appointed by the Executive Director  
24 of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

25 (9) One member appointed by the U.S. Forest Service.

26 (10) One member who shall be a representative of the  
27 power industry to be appointed by the Alabama Power Company

1 and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Membership shall alternate  
2 between the Alabama Power Company and the Tennessee Valley  
3 Authority every two years.

4 (11) One member appointed by the Alabama Farmers  
5 Federation.

6 (12) One member appointed by the Army Corps of  
7 Engineers.

8 (13) One member appointed by the Natural Resources  
9 Conservation Services.

10 (b) The term of all Alabama Trails Commission  
11 Advisory Board appointees shall be for two years unless  
12 otherwise specified. The appointees of the Governor, the  
13 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives may be reappointed for no more than two  
15 consecutive terms. The members of the Alabama Trails  
16 Commission Advisory Board shall serve until a successor is  
17 appointed.

18 (c) A vacancy on the advisory board shall be filled  
19 for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as  
20 the original appointment. Members whose terms have expired may  
21 continue to serve until replaced or reappointed.

22 Section 3. Members of the commission and advisory  
23 board may not receive any compensation for their services but  
24 are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel  
25 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.



1                   Section 4. This act shall become effective  
2       immediately following its passage and approval by the  
3       Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.