

1 SB217  
2 156907-1  
3 By Senator Bussman  
4 RFD: Business and Labor  
5 First Read: 21-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama  
9 Workforce Council.

10  
11 A BILL  
12 TO BE ENTITLED  
13 AN ACT  
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15 Relating to workforce development; to create the  
16 Alabama Workforce Council; and to specify membership and  
17 duties of the council.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

19 Section 1. The Alabama Workforce Council is hereby  
20 created as an appointed group of state business and industry  
21 senior managers responsible for advising and supporting the  
22 Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System and the  
23 Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education. The  
24 Alabama Workforce Council will serve as an advisory body in  
25 formulating policies, developing innovative educational  
26 workforce programming, and discussing issues critical to the  
27 workforce development needs in the State of Alabama.

1 Furthermore, the council will promote, coordinate, and  
2 collaborate across prekindergarten-12, two-year colleges,  
3 four-year universities, and business and industry.

4 Section 2. The Alabama Workforce Council shall  
5 consist of the following members and shall reflect the racial,  
6 gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic diversity of  
7 the state:

8 (1) Two members appointed by the Governor.

9 (2) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

10 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House  
11 of Representatives.

12 (4) One member appointed by the President Pro  
13 Tempore of the Senate.

14 (5) One member from each of the following 10 regions  
15 that comprise the workforce development councils of Alabama  
16 appointed by the Governor:

17 a. Region 1: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale,  
18 Lawrence, Marion, and Winston.

19 b. Region 2: Cullman, DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone,  
20 Madison, Marshall, and Morgan.

21 c. Region 3: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar,  
22 Pickens, Tuscaloosa.

23 d. Region 4: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, St.  
24 Clair, and Walker.

25 e. Region 5: Calhoun, Etowah, Cherokee, Clay,  
26 Cleburne, Coosa, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa.

1                   f. Region 6: Dallas, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, and  
2 Wilcox.

3                   g. Region 7: Autauga, Butler, Crenshaw, Elmore,  
4 Lowndes, and Montgomery.

5                   h. Region 8: Bullock, Chambers, Lee, Macon, and  
6 Russell.

7                   i. Region 9: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh,  
8 Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

9                   j. Region 10: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale,  
10 Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike.

11                   (6) The Director of the Governor's Office of  
12 Workforce Development shall be an ex officio member of the  
13 council but shall have no voting rights.

14                   (7) The Governor shall have the authority to appoint  
15 additional members to the council when necessary.

16                   Section 3. The Secretary of Commerce shall be  
17 responsible for the administrative functions of the council,  
18 including, but not limited to, the organization of meetings,  
19 preparing the annual report, and other items as needed by the  
20 council.

21                   Section 4. The council shall meet within 30 days  
22 after the appointment of the council membership and establish  
23 procedures and other policies necessary to carry on the  
24 business of the council, including the establishment of a  
25 quorum. The council shall meet at least twice a year, but may  
26 meet more frequently upon the call of the chair. Members of  
27 the council may participate in a meeting of the council by

1 means of conference telephone, video conference, or similar  
2 communications equipment by means of which all persons  
3 participating in the meeting may hear each other at the same  
4 time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in  
5 person at a meeting for all purposes, including the  
6 establishment of a quorum.

7 Section 5. Members of the council shall serve at the  
8 pleasure of the official responsible for designating the  
9 members, but in no case shall the term of any member exceed  
10 four years. The initial council members shall be appointed for  
11 terms from one to four years and shall serve such staggered  
12 terms so that one member may be appointed subsequently each  
13 year. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided for the  
14 original appointments. Persons appointed to fill vacancies  
15 shall serve the unexpired portions of the terms.

16 Section 6. The council shall report to the Governor,  
17 the Legislature, the State Board of Education, and the Alabama  
18 Council of College and University Presidents on its advisory  
19 recommendations, if any, by January 31 of each year. The  
20 council will also meet with the above mentioned groups, if  
21 necessary, to discuss the recommendations in the report.

22 Section 7. The members of the council shall not  
23 receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members  
24 of the council, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for  
25 expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the  
26 office at the same rate allowed state employees pursuant to  
27 general law.

1           Section 8. The advisory duties and responsibilities  
2 of the council shall include, but are not restricted to, the  
3 following:

4           (1) Review ways to streamline and align the existing  
5 workforce development functions of the state.

6           (2) Evaluate the best way to increase awareness and  
7 educate students on available opportunities in industry  
8 sectors.

9           (3) Evaluate ways to create a feedback loop for  
10 industry and education.

11           (4) Evaluate private/public partnerships to create  
12 industry-funded scholarship programs for community colleges,  
13 vocational programs, and dual enrollment programs.

14           (5) Evaluate the value of increasing the marketing  
15 associated with career readiness and skilled craft trades.

16           (6) Evaluate the standards for membership and  
17 operations to the existing 10 regional workforce development  
18 councils.

19           Section 9. This act shall become effective on the  
20 first day of the third month following its passage and  
21 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.