

1           HB176  
2        180883-1  
3        By Representatives Sanderford, Sessions, Carns, Patterson,  
4        Collins, Shiver, Chesteen, Hall, Rich, Whorton (R), Pettus,  
5        Ledbetter, Farley, Butler and Daniels  
6        RFD: Technology and Research  
7        First Read: 09-FEB-17

1 180883-1:n:12/12/2016:PMG/tj LRS2016-3509

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama Space  
9 Authority within the Alabama Department of Economic  
10 and Community Affairs (ADECA) to promote research  
11 and development of new space exploration  
12 technologies; sponsor conferences and business  
13 roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and  
14 related industries; and promote activities and  
15 industries, including performing a feasibility  
16 study on the securing of a license for and  
17 development of a spaceport in Alabama. The  
18 authority would include representatives of the  
19 University of Alabama in Huntsville, the Alabama  
20 Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department  
21 of Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature,  
22 and other individuals with knowledge and interest  
23 in space technology.

24  
25 A BILL

26 TO BE ENTITLED

27 AN ACT

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2                   To create the Alabama Space Authority within the  
3                   Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA),  
4                   to promote the research and development of new space  
5                   exploration and spaceport technologies; to sponsor conferences  
6                   and business roundtables within the aerospace, aviation, and  
7                   related industries; and promote activities and industries  
8                   related to space exploration; to include representatives on  
9                   the authority of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the  
10                  Alabama Department of Commerce, ADECA, Alabama Department of  
11                  Transportation, the Governor, the Legislature, and other  
12                  individuals with knowledge and interest in space technology.

13                  BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14                  Section 1. There is hereby established the Alabama  
15                  Space Authority.

16                  Section 2. The authority shall be composed of a  
17                  representative of the University of Alabama in Huntsville,  
18                  selected by the President of the University of Alabama in  
19                  Huntsville, the Director of the Auburn University Aviation  
20                  Center, the President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical  
21                  University, the Secretary of the Alabama Department of  
22                  Commerce, the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic  
23                  and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Director of the Department  
24                  of Transportation (ALDOT), and six other members to be  
25                  selected from the aerospace, aviation, and related industries,  
26                  or persons having knowledge or interest in space technology,  
27                  according to the following manner: One member appointed by the

1 Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, two  
2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives, and two members appointed by the President  
4 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

5 Section 3. The authority shall be created as an  
6 office in the Alabama Department of Economic and Community  
7 Affairs (ADECA). ADECA shall provide for the initial support  
8 needed to apply for grant funding. Upon receipt of grant  
9 funding, ADECA shall provide administrative support for the  
10 authority.

11 Section 4. The authority shall have the following  
12 duties:

13 (1) Encourage the education and training of  
14 aerospace professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and  
15 to develop new methods and technologies for the exploration of  
16 space.

17 (2) Promote new space exploration, space tourism,  
18 and spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of  
19 corporate, academic, public, and private innovation  
20 infrastructures.

21 (3) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business  
22 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders  
23 and public officials.

24 (4) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and  
25 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship  
26 and expand space enterprise.

(5) Propose business initiatives, tax credits, small business incubator programs, and other initiatives to stimulate economic development and innovation within the aerospace and space systems communities.

(6) Promote adequate roads, communications, Internet access, and leverage unique geographical assets such as location, elevation, landforms, and climate to develop terrestrial analog test facilities.

(7) Perform a study on the feasibility of securing approval for the State of Alabama to have a federally licensed spaceport.

(8) Identify, acquire, and manage the development of public lands for space related activities including, if found to be feasible, space launch.

(9) Encourage space research and education centers to support these programs and facilitate technology transfer.

(10) Work with the Department of Tourism, the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and other public agencies to communicate the multiple scientific, educational, and commercial benefits of space exploration and the legacy of Alabama's contributions to America's space program to the public and to promote space tourism and training.

Section 5. For the purpose of accomplishing the duties enumerated in Section 4, the authority shall have the following powers:

(1) To borrow money for its corporate purposes and, in evidence of such borrowing, to sell and issue bonds of the

1 authority and to refund any thereof by the issuance of  
2 refunding bonds, or other debt instruments.

3 (2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or any other  
4 lawful means any real, personal, or mixed property necessary  
5 or convenient in connection with the purpose for which the  
6 authority is formed and to hold title to such property,  
7 together with all rights incidental to its estate in such  
8 property.

9 (3) To exercise the right allocated to the state to  
10 acquire property used or useful for the purpose for which the  
11 authority is formed as freely and completely as and in the  
12 same manner that the State of Alabama is empowered to exercise  
13 such rights.

14 (4) To lease all or any part of the facilities or  
15 property of the authority to any person and, from time to  
16 time, fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals under such  
17 leases.

18 Section 6. Nothing in this act should be construed  
19 to limit the ability of municipalities or counties from  
20 developing aerospace infrastructure and capabilities.

21 Section 7. The enumeration of duties and powers  
22 shall not be construed to give any other public or private  
23 entity, department, or subdivision of the state, other than  
24 the Alabama Space Authority, the right to exercise the  
25 aforementioned powers.

26 Section 8. The authority may not be dissolved while  
27 it still holds outstanding bonds or other unpaid indebtedness.

1                   Section 9. Membership of the authority shall serve  
2 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for per diem and  
3 travel expenses at the same rate and under the same  
4 circumstances as are payable by law to state employees for  
5 each day they attend business of the authority.

6                   Section 10. This act shall become effective  
7 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
8 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.