

HB181 INTRODUCED



1 HB181
2 QESF455-1
3 By Representatives Lipscomb, Brown
4 RFD: Ports, Waterways & Intermodal Transit
5 First Read: 15-Feb-24



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Waters Task Force to consider and address issues relating to Alabama's water resources.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to state waters; to create the permanent Alabama Waters Task Force; and to provide for its membership and duties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Alabama Waters Task Force is created for the purpose of identifying and addressing issues related to Alabama's water resources.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ports, Waterways, and Intermodal Transit Committee to serve as the chair of the task force.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chair of the House of Representatives Ports, Waterways, and Intermodal Transit Committee.



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(3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

(4) The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, or his or her designee.

(5) The Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, or his or her designee.

(6) The Executive Director of the Office of Inland Waterways and Intermodal Infrastructure within the Alabama Department of Economic Affairs, or his or her designee.

(7) The Director of the Alabama State Port Authority, or his or her designee.

(8) One appointee selected by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association.

(9) One appointee selected by the TriRivers Waterway Development Association.

(10) One appointee selected by the Tennessee River Valley Association.

(11) One appointee selected by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council.

(12) One appointee selected by the Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association.

(13) One appointee selected by the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority.

(14) One appointee selected by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

(15) One appointee selected by Mobile Baykeeper.

(c) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure the task force membership is inclusive



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and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of this state.

(d) Task force members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses associated with attending meetings by their respective appointing authorities according to applicable law.

(e) The initial meeting of the task force shall be called by the chair of the task force and shall be held by January 1, 2025. Thereafter, the task force shall meet no less than twice per year.

(f) The task force shall consider how Alabama's water resources impact the state; recommend methods and actions, including legislation, to increase and encourage trade and economic development along, and facilitated by, the waters of this state; and identify measures to protect and improve the quality of these water resources.

(g) The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management shall both provide the necessary staff and support, including meeting space, to the task force to perform its duties as needed.

(h) Not later than the first day of each regular session of the Legislature, the task force shall provide an annual report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for proposed legislation to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October



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85 1, 2024.