

HB177 INTRODUCED



1 HB177
2 7PA8V2V-1
3 By Representative Sells
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 15-Feb-24

1
2
3
4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the salary of the Secretary
6 of Commerce and the salaries of the deputy secretaries
7 of the Department of Commerce may not exceed a specific
8 dollar amount above the highest paid non-merit position
9 in the department.

10 This bill would provide that the salary of the
11 Secretary of Commerce would be set by the Governor in
12 the same manner as other department heads are set.

13 This bill would provide that the salary of the
14 deputy secretaries would be set by the secretary and
15 approved by the Governor.

16 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
17 technical revisions to update the existing code
18 language to current style.

19
20
21 A BILL

22 TO BE ENTITLED

23 AN ACT

24
25 Relating to the Department of Commerce; to amend
26 Section 41-29-1, Code of Alabama 1975; to revise the process
27 for setting the salaries of the secretary and the deputy
28 secretaries; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions



HB177 INTRODUCED

to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 41-29-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§41-29-1

(a) (1) There is hereby created the Department of Commerce within the office of the Governor and directly under his or her supervision and control. The Department of Commerce shall be headed by the Secretary of Commerce, who shall be ~~a person possessed with extensive responsible~~ an individual with extensive experience in development of economic, human, and physical resources and promotion of industrial and commercial development. The secretary shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at his or her pleasure at a salary of any reasonable amount ~~not to exceed by forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) the highest authorized salary for employees of the Department of Commerce who are subject to the Merit System law~~ set in the same manner as other appointed department heads under Section 36-6-6. In fixing ~~such~~ the secretary's salary, the Governor shall give due consideration of the salaries of comparable positions in other states and in private industry. All other employees necessary to carry out the duties and functions of the Department of Commerce shall be employed subject to the state Merit System law. In addition to any other employees, there may be employed a total of eight assistant secretaries for the office, who shall not be subject to the state Merit System law and whose compensation shall be determined by the secretary.



HB177 INTRODUCED

(2) The eight additional assistant secretaries shall be ~~persons~~ individuals experienced in industrial and commercial development for at least the two years prior to their employment. Compensation for the eight additional assistant secretaries shall not exceed the amount of compensation paid for the highest classification of state Merit System employees employed by the Department of Commerce.

(3) The makeup of the assistant secretaries shall be inclusive and should reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, ~~+~~ rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(b) On the date determined pursuant to Section 41-29-6, the Department of Commerce shall be comprised of the following divisions: The Business Development Division and the Workforce Development Division. Each division shall be headed by a deputy secretary who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce outside of the classified service and who shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary at a salary ~~of any reasonable amount not to exceed by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) the highest authorized salary for employees of the Department of Commerce who are subject to the Merit System law~~ set by the secretary and approved by the Governor. The deputy secretary of each division shall report to the ~~Secretary of Commerce~~ secretary.

(c) (1) The Governor, through the Department of Commerce, shall encourage comprehensive and coordinated planning and programming of the affairs of state government.

(2) All economic development functions as defined in subdivision (12) of Section 36-25-1 or otherwise engaged in by



HB177 INTRODUCED

any employee, department, agency, or body corporate in the executive branch of the state shall be pre-approved by the Secretary of Commerce or the Governor.

(d) The Governor may direct any state department or other agency of state government directly under his or her control and supervision to furnish the Department of Commerce with such personnel, equipment, and services as are necessary to enable ~~it~~ the Department of Commerce to carry out its responsibilities and duties and may prescribe the terms thereof, including reimbursement of costs thereof.

(e) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that the Alabama Community College System consists of comprehensive community and technical colleges and the Alabama Technology Network, an effective workforce development initiative. The Alabama Community College System provides a unified system of institutions delivering excellence in academic education, adult education, and workforce development initiatives that are responsive to industry needs for highly specialized training programs that help prepare entry level employees to meet growing demands.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Alabama Community College System shall continue to provide a wide range of career-technical courses and short-term training for job-specific certifications."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2024.