

HB540 INTRODUCED



1 HB540
2 SLJU387-1
3 By Representative Fincher (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 08-Apr-25



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4 A BILL

5 TO BE ENTITLED

6 AN ACT

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9 Relating to Randolph County; to amend Section 6 of Act
10 2003-213, 2003 Regular Session (Acts 2003, p. 541), as last
11 amended by Act 2018-84, 2018 Regular Session, now appearing as
12 Section 45-56-243.05, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide
13 for the distribution of the county tobacco tax.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. Section 6 of Act 2003-213, 2003 Regular
16 Session (Acts 2003, p. 541), as last amended by Act 2018-84,
17 2018 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 45-56-243.05,
18 Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

19 "§45-56-243.05

20 (a) The proceeds from the tax authorized, less two
21 percent of the actual amount of collection which shall be
22 retained by the state Department of Revenue, shall be
23 distributed to the Randolph County General Fund to be
24 distributed within 15 days of receipt as follows:25 (1) Thirty-two percent ~~of the proceeds~~ shall be
26 distributed in equal shares to the recognized volunteer fire
27 departments located in the county and to the Randolph County
28 Rescue Squad, with each volunteer fire department receiving



29 one share and the Randolph County Rescue Squad receiving one
30 share, to be used for fire protection and emergency medical
31 services in the county, as provided in subsection (b).

32 (2) Twenty-four percent ~~of the proceeds~~ shall be
33 ~~distributed to the Randolph County Industrial Development~~
34 Council used for tourism or economic development in the county.

35 (3) Twenty-four percent shall be retained in the
36 Randolph County General Fund to be utilized as are other
37 county funds.

38 (4) Ten percent ~~of the proceeds~~ shall be distributed to
39 the Randolph County ~~Equine and~~ Agricultural Association
40 Center, Inc. to be used to pursue educational opportunities
41 related to and to promote all types of agriculture in Randolph
42 County and its surrounding area.

43 (5) Ten percent ~~of the proceeds~~ shall be distributed to
44 the Randolph County Animal Shelter to be used for small animal
45 control on a countywide basis.

46 (b) (1) The funds distributed to the recognized
47 volunteer fire departments shall be payable on a monthly basis
48 and shall be expended only for purposes of fire protection,
49 prevention, and fire safety education in order to encourage a
50 strong volunteer firefighter network in Randolph County. The
51 proceeds shall be distributed to volunteer fire departments in
52 the county meeting the minimum state standards as determined
53 by the Alabama Forestry Commission and recognized by the
54 Randolph County Volunteer Firefighters Association. None of
55 the proceeds shall be used for salaries or to pay members for
56 any performance of duties associated with the department. Any

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57 member fire department which fails to meet the minimum
58 standards shall be denied its share of the funding. The
59 association shall give noncomplying member fire departments
60 proper notice of all deficiencies and a reasonable time period
61 to correct the deficiencies before any funds shall be denied.

62 (2) The share of the funds distributed to the Randolph
63 County Rescue Squad shall be payable on a monthly basis and
64 shall be expended only for the delivery of emergency services.

65 ~~(c) None of the funds distributed to the Randolph~~
66 ~~County Equine and Agricultural Association may be used for~~
67 ~~salaries, but the members of the board shall be entitled to~~
68 ~~reimbursement from funds of the association for their actual~~
69 ~~and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their~~
70 ~~actual duties. Any additional monies needed for salaries shall~~
71 ~~be generated from other sources.~~

72 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.