

HB540 INTRODUCED



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



A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§45-56-243.05

(a) The proceeds from the tax authorized, less two percent of the actual amount of collection which shall be retained by the state Department of Revenue, shall be distributed to the Randolph County General Fund to be distributed within 15 days of receipt as follows:

(1) Thirty-two percent ~~of the proceeds~~ shall be distributed in equal shares to the recognized volunteer fire departments located in the county and to the Randolph County Rescue Squad, with each volunteer fire department receiving



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

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

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

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

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

(b)(1) The funds distributed to the recognized volunteer fire departments shall be payable on a monthly basis and shall be expended only for purposes of fire protection, prevention, and fire safety education in order to encourage a strong volunteer firefighter network in Randolph County. The proceeds shall be distributed to volunteer fire departments in the county meeting the minimum state standards as determined by the Alabama Forestry Commission and recognized by the Randolph County Volunteer Firefighters Association. None of the proceeds shall be used for salaries or to pay members for 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.