

SB228 INTRODUCED



1 SB228

2 DGW8ENN-1

3 By Senator Givhan

4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs

5 First Read: 29-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the Alabama Space Authority
6 is an office within the Alabama Department of Economic
7 and Community Affairs responsible for promoting
8 research and development of new space exploration and
9 spaceport technology within aerospace, aviation, and
10 related industries.

11 This bill would rename the authority the Alabama
12 Aerospace Authority.

13 This bill would increase the membership of the
14 authority by adding the Finance Director and the
15 Secretary of Workforce as ex officio members, and the
16 Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space and Rocket
17 Center Commission as an ex officio nonvoting member.

18 This bill would also provide further for the
19 duties and powers of the authority.

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22 A BILL

23 TO BE ENTITLED

24 AN ACT

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26 Relating to the Alabama Space Authority; to amend
27 Sections 41-23-170, 41-23-171, 41-23-173, and 41-23-174, Code
28 of Alabama 1975, to rename the authority the Alabama Aerospace

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29 Authority; to increase the membership of the authority; and to
30 further provide for the duties and powers of the authority.

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

32 Section 1. Sections 41-23-170, 41-23-171, 41-23-173,
33 and 41-23-174 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read
34 as follows:

35 "§41-23-170

36 There is ~~hereby~~ established the Alabama Space
37 Authority. Commencing on October 1, 2026, the name of the
38 Alabama Space Authority shall be the Alabama Aerospace
39 Authority, and all rights, duties, property, real or personal,
40 and all other effects existing in the name of the Alabama
41 Space Authority, or in any other name by which the authority
42 has been known, shall continue in the name of the Alabama
43 Aerospace Authority. Any existing or future reference to the
44 Alabama Space Authority, or any other name by which the
45 authority has been known, in any existing law, contract, or
46 other instrument, shall constitute a reference to the Alabama
47 Aerospace Authority."

48 "§41-23-171

49 The authority shall be composed of ~~a~~ all of the
50 following members:

51 (1) A representative of the University of Alabama in
52 Huntsville, selected by the President of the University of
53 Alabama in Huntsville, ~~the~~.

54 (2) The Director of the Auburn University Aviation
55 Center, ~~the~~ or his or her designee.

56 (3) The President of Alabama Agricultural and



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57 Mechanical University, ~~the~~ or his or her designee.

58 (4) The Secretary of the Alabama Department of
59 Commerce, ~~the~~ or his or her designee.

60 (5) The Director of the Alabama Department of Economic
61 and Community Affairs, ~~the~~ or his or her designee.

62 (6) The Director of the Department of Transportation,
63 ~~and six other~~ or his or her designee.

64 (7) The Finance Director, or his or her designee.

65 (8) The Secretary of Workforce, or his or her designee.

66 (9) a. Five members ~~to be~~ selected from the aerospace,
67 aviation, and related industries, or ~~persons~~ individuals
68 having knowledge or interest in space technology, according to
69 the following manner: (i) One member appointed by the
70 Governor, ~~the Finance Director;~~ (ii) two members appointed by
71 the Speaker of the House of Representatives~~;~~ (iii) two
72 members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

73 b. An appointed member of the authority shall serve a
74 term concurrent with his or her appointing authority and at
75 the pleasure of the appointing authority. Any vacancy in an
76 appointed position shall be filled by the original appointing
77 authority.

78 (10) The Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space and
79 Rocket Center Commission, or his or her designee, who shall
80 serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of the authority."

81 "§41-23-173

82 (a) The authority shall have the following duties:

83 (1) Encourage the education and training of aerospace
84 professionals to pioneer the frontier of space and to develop

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85 new methods and technologies for the exploration of space.

86 (2) Promote new space exploration, space tourism, and
87 spaceport technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate,
88 academic, public, and private innovation infrastructures.

89 (3) Sponsor aerospace conferences and business
90 roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders
91 and public officials.

92 (4) Encourage the leveraging of venture capital and
93 seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship
94 and expand space enterprise.

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

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

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

104 (8) Work with the Department of Tourism, the ~~Alabama~~
105 U.S. Space ~~Science Exhibit~~ and Rocket Center Commission, and
106 other public agencies to communicate the multiple scientific,
107 educational, and commercial benefits of space exploration and
108 the legacy of Alabama's contributions to America's space
109 program to the public and to promote space tourism and
110 training.

111 (9) Develop strategies to promote and encourage private
112 investments in furtherance of this article.



113 (10) Perform any other actions necessary or convenient
114 to carry out its purposes and to exercise its powers pursuant
115 to this article to the extent permitted by law.

116 (b) The authority shall establish procedures for
117 conducting its affairs in execution of the duties and
118 responsibilities stated in this article, which operating
119 procedures shall include appropriate operational guidelines.
120 The authority may establish committees to conduct the work of
121 the authority and the committees may include nonmembers as
122 deemed appropriate by the authority."

123 "§41-23-174

124 For the purpose of accomplishing the duties enumerated
125 in Section 41-23-173, the authority shall have the following
126 powers:

127 (1) To acquire by purchase or gift any real, personal,
128 or mixed property necessary or convenient in connection with
129 the purpose for which the authority is formed and to hold
130 title to such property, together with all rights incidental to
131 its estate in such property.

132 (2) To lease all or any part of the facilities or
133 property of the authority to any person and, from time to
134 time, fix, revise, charge, and collect rentals under such
135 leases.

136 (3) To adopt bylaws and policies, as approved by ADECA,
137 to administer this article, including any bylaws necessary to
138 meet the future needs of aerospace and spaceport
139 infrastructure and capabilities in this state. Upon the
140 adoption, amendment, or repeal of a bylaw or policy, the



141 authority shall provide a copy to the Legislative Council for
142 review.

143 (4) To make, enter into, and execute contracts,
144 agreements, leases, and other instruments with public and
145 private entities, and to take such other actions as may be
146 necessary or convenient to accomplish any purpose for which
147 the authority was organized or to exercise any power granted
148 under this article.

149 (5) To accept gifts, loans, and grants to expend in
150 taking any action not specifically prohibited by this article
151 in furtherance of the purposes of this article."

152 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
153 1, 2026.