

SB228 INTRODUCED



1 SB228
2 DGW8ENN-1
3 By Senator Givhan
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 29-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

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

This bill would rename the authority the Alabama Aerospace Authority.

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

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

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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



SB228 INTRODUCED

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§41-23-170

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

"§41-23-171

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

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

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

(3) The President of Alabama Agricultural and



SB228 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"§41-23-173

(a) The authority shall have the following duties:

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



SB228 INTRODUCED

new methods and technologies for the exploration of space.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SB228 INTRODUCED

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

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

"§41-23-174

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

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

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

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



SB228 INTRODUCED

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.