

SB237 INTRODUCED



1 SB237
2 DGMP3HN-1
3 By Senators Singleton, Hatcher, Figures, Coleman,
4 Coleman-Madison, Stewart, Orr
5 RFD: Judiciary
6 First Read: 29-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 State ethics laws prohibit public employees and
6 public officials from using their official position or
7 office for personal gain. This prohibition can
8 discourage or stymie the ability of public institutions
9 of higher education to conduct research, obtain grants,
10 collaborate with others, and develop intellectual
11 property.

12 This bill would provide that the ethics laws
13 shall not be deemed to limit the ability of public
14 institutions of higher education to accept and award
15 grants, conduct research, collaborate, enter into
16 technology transfer agreements, and develop and share
17 intellectual property by agreement in accordance with
18 institution policy.

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21 A BILL
22 TO BE ENTITLED
23 AN ACT

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25 Relating to government ethics; to add Section 36-25-1.4
26 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the ethics laws
27 do not limit certain research and development activities
28 conducted by public institutions of higher education.

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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

30 Section 1. Section 36-25-1.4 is added to the Code of
31 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

32 \$36-25-1.4

33 Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to limit or
34 restrict the ability of public institutions of higher
35 education, along with the public servants within the
36 institutions, to accept and award grants, conduct research,
37 collaborate with persons both within and outside the
38 institution, enter into technology transfer agreements, and
39 otherwise commercialize, protect, and share intellectual
40 property by agreement in accordance with institution policy.

41 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,
42 2026.