

## HB416 INTRODUCED



1      HB416  
2      V7I1EVL-1  
3      By Representative Robertson      (N & P)  
4      RFD: Local Legislation  
5      First Read: 10-Feb-26



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## 4 A BILL

5 TO BE ENTITLED

6 AN ACT

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9 Relating to Cleburne County; to establish the Cleburne  
10 County Economic Development Authority; to provide for the  
11 membership of a board of directors; and to provide for the  
12 powers and duties of the authority.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. (a) The Cleburne County Economic Development  
15 Authority is established to negotiate for the county on all  
16 industrial and economic development matters in the county. The  
17 board of directors of the authority shall consist of the  
18 following members, all of whom must be residents and qualified  
19 electors of the county:20 (1) Two members serving an initial term of two years,  
21 one of whom is appointed by the county commissioner  
22 representing District 4 and one of whom is appointed by the  
23 county commissioner representing District 2.24 (2) Two members serving an initial term of four years,  
25 one of whom is appointed by the county commissioner  
26 representing District 1 and one of whom is appointed by the  
27 county commissioner representing District 3.

28 (3) One member serving an initial term of six years

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29 appointed by the chair of the county commission.

30 (b) Following initial terms, all members shall serve  
31 four-year terms that shall commence on January 1. Any vacancy  
32 on the board shall be filled by the respective appointing  
33 authority for the remainder of the member's term.

34 (c) Members of the board shall serve without  
35 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement from funds of  
36 the authority for their actual and necessary expenses incurred  
37 in the performance of their actual duties.

38 (d) No later than November 1, 2026, the board shall  
39 hold an organizational meeting at which time the board shall  
40 elect a chair and vice chair by majority vote of the members  
41 present and voting at the meeting. Thereafter, the board of  
42 directors shall meet at least quarterly and at any other time  
43 if two-thirds of the members of the board submit a request to  
44 the chair of the board stating a need for a special meeting.

45 (e) At the first board meeting in January of each year,  
46 the board of directors, by a majority vote, shall elect a  
47 chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer who shall hold  
48 office until their successors have been elected.

49 Section 2. (a) The board may adopt bylaws to regulate  
50 and administer the business of the Cleburne County Economic  
51 Development Authority.

52 (b) Members of the board shall appoint a director to  
53 serve at the pleasure of the board to carry out the day-to-day  
54 operations of the authority. The director shall be subject to  
55 the filing requirements under Section 36-25-14, Code of  
56 Alabama 1975.



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57           Section 3. The authority may employ such personnel as  
58 the director, in consultation with the members of the board,  
59 deems necessary to carry out the duties and purposes of the  
60 authority. Personnel employed by the authority may participate  
61 in the Employees' Retirement System of Alabama like other  
62 employees of the county and may purchase prior service credit  
63 in the Employees' Retirement System for services rendered to  
64 Cleburne County under the applicable laws and rules of the  
65 Employees' Retirement System of Alabama.

66           Section 4. Members of the board of directors and the  
67 director of the authority shall be considered public officials  
68 for purposes of Chapter 25 of Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975.

69           Section 5. (a) The authority shall formulate and  
70 implement plans to promote and foster the industrial  
71 development and economic growth of all areas of Cleburne  
72 County and any incorporated municipalities located within the  
73 county. To this end, the authority shall be entitled to all of  
74 the powers, rights, privileges, exemptions, and immunities  
75 provided by the general laws of Alabama to local industrial  
76 development authorities, including, but not limited to,  
77 abatement or exemption of local taxes, issuance of bonds, and  
78 the acquisition, enlargement, improvement, replacement,  
79 ownership, leasing, selling, or disposing of properties as the  
80 authority deems necessary to promote the creation of jobs and  
81 develop commerce and trade within the county and the state.

82           (b) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the authority  
83 may not abate or exempt any local tax to any person or other  
84 entity unless the governing body of the local entity in which

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85 the tax is levied affirmatively approves the granting of the  
86 economic incentive.

87 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), the authority may  
88 not abate or exempt any local taxes to a board member, the  
89 director, or any employee of the authority; to his or her  
90 spouse or dependent child; or to any business with which the  
91 person is associated, as that term is defined in Section  
92 36-25-1, Code of Alabama 1975.

93 Section 6. The headquarters office of the authority  
94 shall be located in Cleburne County.

95 Section 7. The operations of the authority may be  
96 funded from any of the following sources:

97 (1) Funds appropriated or allocated by the Cleburne  
98 County Commission.

99 (2) Revenue from taxes on the sale of tobacco collected  
100 by the county.

101 (3) Grants from other governmental authorities or  
102 public organizations.

103 (4) Grants or donations from private individuals or  
104 organizations.

105 Section 8. This act shall become effective on October  
106 1, 2026.