

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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appointed by the chair of the county commission.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Members of the board shall appoint a director to serve at the pleasure of the board to carry out the day-to-day operations of the authority. The director shall be subject to the filing requirements under Section 36-25-14, Code of 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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the tax is levied affirmatively approves the granting of the economic incentive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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