

HB618 INTRODUCED



1 HB618
2 EJGXWCC-1
3 By Representatives Simpson, Givens, Holk-Jones, Fidler, Baker,
4 Brown, Wilcox, Shirey, Stringer, Bracy
5 RFD: Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure
6 First Read: 12-Mar-26



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would authorize certain county commissions to establish regulations related to the permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms.

This bill would also provide penalties for violations and provide for an appeal process.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to counties and municipalities; to authorize certain county commission to establish regulations related to the permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms; to provide penalties for violations; and to provide for an appeal process.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) COUNTY COMMISSION. The governing body of any county that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

(2) SOLAR FARM. A large-scale, ground-mounted installation of photovoltaic panels, arrays, or reflectors



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designed to generate electricity for sale or use off-site.

(b)(1) In order to protect the coastline and watershed, a county commission may adopt resolutions to regulate the permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms in the county.

(2) A county commission may adopt resolutions establishing standards, specifications, criteria, and conditions relating to permitting, construction, placement, or operation of solar farms in the unincorporated areas of the county.

(3) A county commission may adopt resolutions to establish and determine the appropriate locations where solar farms may be located or allowed or to prohibit the same.

(c)(1) If any building or structure is erected, constructed, altered, repaired, converted, operated, or maintained, or if any land is used, in violation of this section or any resolution adopted pursuant to this section, the county commission, or any administrative officer designated by the county commission, may institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate the violation, prevent the use of any building or structure, or to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or misuse in or upon any premises regulated under the authority conferred by this section.

(2) A county commission may adopt resolutions providing for a penalty in the form of a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any violation of this section or an ordinance adopted pursuant to this section.



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57 (3) Any violation of this section or an ordinance
58 adopted pursuant to this section shall be a public nuisance.

59 (4) Upon a finding that a building or structure
60 violates the provisions of this section or any ordinance
61 adopted pursuant to this section, the county commission may
62 remove the building or structure, and all costs of the removal
63 shall be assessed against the landowner and recorded as a lien
64 on the property and may be enforced until satisfied.

65 (d) A county commission may levy permit and
66 applications fees to administer the resolutions adopted
67 pursuant to this section. The fees shall cover the cost of
68 administrative activities and the cost of reviewing
69 applications, including the costs or fees associated with any
70 experts or consultants necessary to assist the county in
71 reviewing applications.

72 (e) A county commission may adopt resolutions to
73 determine the terms or conditions of any exceptions or
74 exemptions from the provisions of this section or any
75 resolution adopted pursuant to this section. Any resolution
76 adopted pursuant to this section shall authorize a variance
77 process and a variance appeals process for any party aggrieved
78 by a final variance decision of the county commission to
79 appeal the decision to the circuit court.

80 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
81 1, 2026.