

# HB181 INTRODUCED



1 HB181  
2 QESF455-1  
3 By Representatives Lipscomb, Brown  
4 RFD: Ports, Waterways & Intermodal Transit  
5 First Read: 15-Feb-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Alabama Waters Task Force to consider and address issues relating to Alabama's water resources.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to state waters; to create the permanent Alabama Waters Task Force; and to provide for its membership and duties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Alabama Waters Task Force is created for the purpose of identifying and addressing issues related to Alabama's water resources.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Chair of the House of Representatives Ports, Waterways, and Intermodal Transit Committee to serve as the chair of the task force.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chair of the House of Representatives Ports, Waterways, and Intermodal Transit Committee.



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29 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the  
30 Lieutenant Governor.

31 (4) The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural  
32 Resources, or his or her designee.

33 (5) The Director of the Alabama Department of  
34 Environmental Management, or his or her designee.

35 (6) The Executive Director of the Office of Inland  
36 Waterways and Intermodal Infrastructure within the Alabama  
37 Department of Economic Affairs, or his or her designee.

38 (7) The Director of the Alabama State Port Authority,  
39 or his or her designee.

40 (8) One appointee selected by the Coosa-Alabama River  
41 Improvement Association.

42 (9) One appointee selected by the TriRivers Waterway  
43 Development Association.

44 (10) One appointee selected by the Tennessee River  
45 Valley Association.

46 (11) One appointee selected by the Tennessee-Tombigbee  
47 Waterway Development Council.

48 (12) One appointee selected by the Warrior-Tombigbee  
49 Waterway Association.

50 (13) One appointee selected by the Choctawhatchee, Pea  
51 and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority.

52 (14) One appointee selected by the Dauphin Island Sea  
53 Lab.

54 (15) One appointee selected by Mobile Baykeeper.

55 (c) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
56 appointments to assure the task force membership is inclusive



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57 and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and  
58 economic diversity of this state.

59 (d) Task force members shall serve without compensation  
60 but may be reimbursed for actual expenses associated with  
61 attending meetings by their respective appointing authorities  
62 according to applicable law.

63 (e) The initial meeting of the task force shall be  
64 called by the chair of the task force and shall be held by  
65 January 1, 2025. Thereafter, the task force shall meet no less  
66 than twice per year.

67 (f) The task force shall consider how Alabama's water  
68 resources impact the state; recommend methods and actions,  
69 including legislation, to increase and encourage trade and  
70 economic development along, and facilitated by, the waters of  
71 this state; and identify measures to protect and improve the  
72 quality of these water resources.

73 (g) The Department of Conservation and Natural  
74 Resources and the Alabama Department of Environmental  
75 Management shall both provide the necessary staff and support,  
76 including meeting space, to the task force to perform its  
77 duties as needed.

78 (h) Not later than the first day of each regular  
79 session of the Legislature, the task force shall provide an  
80 annual report of its findings, conclusions, and  
81 recommendations for proposed legislation to the Governor,  
82 Lieutenant Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
83 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

84 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October



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85 1, 2024.