

1 SB151
2 202787-1
3 By Senators Elliott, Williams and Chesteen
4 RFD: Transportation and Energy
5 First Read: 06-FEB-20

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, prior to the building of new toll roads, bridges, or tunnels, the Department of Transportation must advertise where the proposed toll project will be located and conduct a public hearing in each affected county.

This bill would require the Joint Transportation Committee to select a qualified, independent entity to complete an economic impact study related to the toll project prior to construction and prior to the public hearing, would require the public posting of the study, and would require that the study be transmitted to the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to toll roads, bridges, and tunnels; to require the Joint Transportation Committee to complete an

1 economic impact study prior to building toll roads, bridges,
2 or tunnels; to provide for the substance of the study; to
3 provide for the posting of the study and the transmittal of
4 the study to the members of the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge and
5 Tunnel Authority; and to provide for public comment on the
6 study.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. (a) Prior to building a new toll road,
9 bridge, or tunnel or expanding capacity on any existing public
10 road, bridge, or tunnel for tolling purposes, and prior to the
11 public hearing required under Section 23-2-162, Code of
12 Alabama 1975, the Joint Transportation Committee, in
13 consultation with the Fiscal Division of the Legislative
14 Services Agency, shall select a qualified, independent person
15 or entity to complete an economic impact study related to the
16 proposed project. The committee shall manage and monitor the
17 completion of the study and the Department of Transportation
18 shall pay all costs associated with the study.

19 (b) At a minimum, the economic impact study required
20 under subsection (a) shall include quantitative estimates of
21 the effect the new toll project will have on the state and
22 local economy, including, but not limited to, the impact on
23 all of the following:

24 (1) Existing commercial and industrial development.

25 (2) Employment.

1 (3) Future development near the project area,
2 including consideration of locations for interchanges that
3 will maximize opportunities for development.

4 (4) Revenues to the state and political subdivisions
5 of the state.

6 (c) Upon receipt, the Joint Transportation Committee
7 shall immediately transmit a copy of the study to the
8 Department of Transportation. The department shall post a copy
9 of the economic impact study on its public website and shall
10 also provide written notice to the Alabama Toll Road, Bridge
11 and Tunnel Authority that the study has been completed.

12 (d) At the public hearing required under Section
13 23-2-162, Code of Alabama 1975, the department shall afford
14 the public an opportunity to comment on the results of the
15 economic impact study.

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective
17 immediately following its passage and approval by the
18 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.