



FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 344

Committee: Economic Development and
Tourism

Sponsor: Representative Danny Garrett

Analyst: Jennifer Farish

Date: 04/03/2024

House Bill 344 as introduced would rename the existing Alabama Department of Labor as the Alabama Department of Workforce (ADOW) and designate the head of the department as the Secretary of Workforce. This bill would also restructure the ADOW and increase its' administrative and financial obligations by an undetermined amount by expanding the general functions and duties of the ADOW to include: (1) serving as the centralized data and information repository for the workforce development activities of the state; and (2) administering and overseeing certain state and federal workforce development programs and entities currently administered and overseen by the Department of Commerce (DOC).

Additionally, this bill would: (1) transfer all state-owned assets and state-level staff currently assigned to regional workforce councils from the Department of Commerce to ADOW; (2) exempt existing division chiefs, currently subject to the State Merit System, from the Merit System; and (3) allow members of the Alabama Workforce Board, members of its' executive committee, and members of the regional workforce boards to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the office.