



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 219

Committee: Economic Development and Tourism

Sponsor: Senator Shay Shelnett

Analyst: Jennifer Farish

Date: 04/23/2024

Senate Bill 219 as passed the Senate authorizes the creation of the Agriculture Exhibition Center Corporation (Corporation) governed by a 7-member board of directors, to construct, develop, and operate the Alabama Farm Center for the promotion, showcasing, and facilitating education regarding all facets of the agricultural industry and advancing agricultural business and workforce development in this state. The bill authorizes the county where the Alabama Farm Center is located and each municipality to lease, sell, or convey property and appropriate public funds to the Corporation. The bill deems the Corporation an economic development organization, for purposes of the Growing Alabama Act allowing the Corporation to apply directly to the Department of Commerce for tax credits to undertake construction, management, and leasing of the Alabama Farm Center.

Additionally, this bill exempts the Corporation from payment of: (1) all state, county, and municipal noneducational taxes; (2) all state, county, and local ad valorem taxes; and (3) any other taxes levied by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state, including, license and excise taxes. This bill will reduce potential receipts to the State General Fund, Education Trust Fund, county and municipal funds, by an undetermined amount dependent upon the amount of noneducational taxes, ad valorem taxes, and any other taxes, including license and excise taxes, exempted by the provisions of this bill. This bill authorizes rebates from any county or municipal sales and use tax proceeds collected by the Corporation and remitted to a local taxing authority. The bill further authorizes the Corporation to enter revenue sharing agreements with the County Commission and municipalities to share any revenue generated by the Corporation outside of the operational area of the Corporation.

This bill would also allow the corporation to: (1) accept pledges of revenues and grants from



government entities; (2) sell or lease its property to government entities; (3) enter into financing agreements with state agencies that requires the authority to mortgage its property; (4) invest funds; (5) accept lease payments; (6) issue bonds; (7) make loans; (8) establish subsidiaries other corporations; (9) enter into design-build contracts; and (10) borrow money from any government entity.

This could also increase the administrative obligations of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to biennially audit the corporation.