



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 720

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### ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA INNOVATION COMMISSION

**WHEREAS** entrepreneurship and innovation are essential to the growth and competitiveness of Alabama's economy;

**WHEREAS** Alabama's most prominent industries—including the automotive, aerospace, chemicals, agriculture, forest products, information technology, energy, metals, plastics, and bioscience industries—would all benefit from an enhanced culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within Alabama's economy;

**WHEREAS** Alabama is home to several prestigious institutes which foster innovation by engaging in cutting-edge research and development;

**WHEREAS** public-private partnership initiatives offer another effective means of fostering innovation and commercialization—including by assisting in the creation and attraction of businesses in emerging industries and by commercializing early-stage enterprises;

**WHEREAS** Alabama is committed to supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, research and development, and knowledge-based economic development that produces high-quality jobs aligned with economic-growth opportunities now and in the future; and

**WHEREAS** entrepreneurs, innovators, and other stakeholders could benefit from a platform to engage other leaders and policymakers to exchange ideas and resources and to identify policies that will promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and related opportunities in the State of Alabama;


**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama do hereby establish the Alabama Innovation Commission (the "Commission"), effective immediately, as further set forth below:

1. **Purpose.** The Commission shall review Alabama's innovation environment and shall develop recommendations tailored for growing Alabama's innovation economy and tech-related industries.
2. **Duties.** The Commission shall have the following duties:
  - a. To monitor and research the effectiveness of existing policies aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development, as well as the overall performance of Alabama's economy and its key sectors;
  - b. To review and research the most effective policies for increasing entrepreneurship and innovation, supporting early-stage companies, and enhancing the effectiveness of technology accelerators;
  - c. To produce a report, as set out in the next section, detailing the Commission's findings and recommendations on the state of innovation and entrepreneurship in Alabama, which shall be presented to the Office of the Governor; and
  - d. To conduct forums at which representatives of the Alabama entrepreneurship and innovation community may engage members of the Commission and contribute to the ongoing work of the Commission by providing industry insight.
3. **Report.** The Commission shall produce a report, which shall be presented to the Governor by October 31, 2021, unless another date is approved in writing by the Governor. The report shall include:
  - a. An evaluation of Alabama's existing business environment, policies, and infrastructure, with respect to the effect of each on entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth in Alabama;
  - b. Policy recommendations for increasing entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth in Alabama;
  - c. Policy recommendations that will enhance the economic impact of technology accelerators in Alabama;
  - d. Policy recommendations for methods to reduce Alabama's regulatory burden, including policies and procedures that will streamline government, reduce inefficiencies, and remove red tape; and

- e. Data and analysis supporting all conclusions reached by the Commission.
4. **Membership.** The Commission shall consist of the following members: (1) Representative Bill Poole, who shall serve as the Chair; (2) Senator Greg Reed, who shall serve as Vice Chair; (3) Scott Adams; (4) Greg Barker; (5) Lindsay Rane Carter; (6) Rick Clementz; (7) Miller Girvin; (8) Representative Jeremy Gray; (9) Abe Harper; (10) Caitlin Myers; (11) Shegun Otulana; (12) Peggy Sammon; (13) Senator Malika Sanders-Fortier; (14) Charisse Stokes; (15) Neill Wright; and (16) additional individuals as requested by the Chair and appointed by the Governor.
5. **Advisory Council.** The Commission shall receive support and consultation from an Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall provide such support and consultation in the manner, and at the times and places, as the Commission and the Advisory Council deem appropriate. The Advisory Council shall consist of the following members: (1) Zeke Smith who shall serve as President; (2) Condoleezza Rice; (3) Jared Weinstein; (4) Greg Canfield; (5) Bill Smith; and (6) Chris Moody. The Commission may engage other experts, business leaders, and institutions for advice and insight into the subject matter of the Commission.
6. **Meetings.** The Commission shall assemble for its first meeting within four weeks after the issuance of this executive order. It shall meet periodically thereafter as deemed necessary by the Chair. The Commission's meetings shall be appropriately publicized and open to the public.
7. **Compensation and expenses.** The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation except for appropriate travel reimbursement under state law to members who are public officials or public employees.
8. **State-agency cooperation.** State agencies and other state-funded entities shall cooperate with the Commission and provide information requested by the Commission. The Governor's Office and the Alabama Department of Commerce shall provide administrative support.
9. **Duration.** Unless extended by the Governor in writing, the Commission shall be dissolved effective October 31, 2021.

DONE AND ORDERED this 16th day of July 2020.



  
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KAY IVEY  
Governor

ATTESTED

  
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JOHN H. MERRILL  
Secretary of State