

Senate Bill 121 (SB121)

Senate Bill 121 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for a ten year road and bridge construction program to be funded with appropriations from the Alabama Trust Fund and to provide for a transfer of funds to the County and Municipal Government Capital Improvement Fund. Beginning in the fiscal year ending September 2011 and continuing through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, the Legislature will appropriate from the Alabama Trust Fund the amount of one hundred million dollars in each fiscal year.

75 percent will be distributed to the Department of Transportation for construction, maintenance, and repair of state and local highways, roads, and bridges and other transportation purposes allocated as follows:

- \$1 million of this amount will be distributed to the Alabama Shortline Railroad Infrastructure Rehabilitation Fund, providing for the proper rehabilitation and upgrading of short line railroads. This money will be allocated in grants, for which an eligible grantee must provide matching funds equal to 20 percent of the grant award.
- \$5 million will be expended in each congressional district in the state.
- The remainder of the 75 percent will be expended as follows:
 - 45 percent divided by 67 will be expended in each county.
 - 55 percent divided on the basis of the ratio of the population of each county to the total population of the state will be expended in each county.

25 percent will be distributed to the counties and municipalities to be used for new construction and maintenance and repair. This amount will be allocated as follows:

- 45 percent will be allocated equally among the 67 counties of the state.
- 55 percent will be allocated among the 67 counties on the basis of the ratio of the population of each county to the total population of the state.
- 10 percent of the total amount allocated to each county will be distributed among the municipalities within the county on the basis of the ratio of the population of each municipality to the total population of all municipalities in the county.

In awarding of contracts utilizing funds appropriated, the DOT and local governments may give preference to Alabama based companies which employ Alabama residents. Funds expended will comply with the US DOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. No part of the appropriation may be allotted if it would cause the total capital of the Trust Fund to fall below \$2 billion. If an amount is not allotted due to this provision, that amount may be appropriated in a subsequent fiscal year.

The Bill has been enacted. An election upon the proposed amendment is required, and will take place on November 2nd.

The Bill in its entirety can be viewed at <http://www.acea-online.org/frontpagestuff/2010WeeklyReports/SB121-eng.pdf>