

**HB103 ENROLLED**



1 HB103  
2 4BC4333-2  
3 By Representative Paschal  
4 RFD: Military and Veterans Affairs  
5 First Read: 06-Feb-24  
6 PFD: 05-Feb-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 Relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs; to  
4 amend Sections 31-5-1, 31-5-2, 31-5-3, 31-5-4, 31-5-5, 31-5-6,  
5 31-5-7, 31-5-8, 31-5-9, 31-5-10, 31-5-11, 31-5-13, 31-5-14,  
6 31-5A-1, 31-5A-2, 31-5A-3, 31-5A-4, 31-5A-5, 31-5A-6, 31-5A-7,  
7 31-5A-8, 31-5A-9, 31-5A-10, and 31-5A-11, Code of Alabama  
8 1975; to repeal Section 31-5-12, Code of Alabama 1975; to  
9 revise definitions; to rename professional employee positions;  
10 to provide for the appointment of an executive director to  
11 oversee the operation of state veterans homes; and to make  
12 nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing  
13 code language to current style.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. Relating to the Department of Veterans  
16 Affairs; to amend Sections 31-5-1, 31-5-2, 31-5-3, 31-5-4,  
17 31-5-5, 31-5-6, 31-5-7, 31-5-8, 31-5-9, 31-5-10, 31-5-11,  
18 31-5-13, 31-5-14, 31-5A-1, 31-5A-2, 31-5A-3, 31-5A-4, 31-5A-5,  
19 31-5A-6, 31-5A-7, 31-5A-8, 31-5A-9, 31-5A-10, and 31-5A-11,  
20 Code of Alabama 1975; to revise definitions; to rename  
21 professional employee positions; to provide for the  
22 appointment of an executive director to oversee the operation  
23 of state veterans homes; and to make nonsubstantive, technical  
24 revisions to update the existing code language to current  
25 style.

26 "§31-5-1

27 As used under this chapter, these terms shall have the  
28 following meanings:



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29           ~~(1)~~ (3) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of  
30 Veterans'Veterans Affairs.

31           ~~(2)~~ (1) ~~THE STATE BOARD~~. The State Board of  
32 Veterans'Veterans Affairs.

33           ~~(3)~~ (2) ~~STATE COMMISSIONER~~. The ~~State Service~~  
34 ~~Commissioner~~chief executive officer of the State Department of  
35 Veterans Affairs.

36           (4) VETERAN. ~~Except as otherwise used in this chapter,~~  
37 ~~such term shall mean any~~Either of the following:

38           a. ~~Any person~~individual, ~~male or female, who served on~~  
39 ~~active duty, whether commissioned, enlisted, inducted,~~  
40 ~~appointed or mustered into the military or naval service of~~  
41 ~~the United States during any war in which the United States~~  
42 ~~has been engaged, and who shall have been discharged or~~  
43 ~~released from such services under conditions other than~~  
44 ~~dishonorable~~ who served in the active military, naval, air, or  
45 space forces of the United States and who was discharged or  
46 released under conditions other than dishonorable.

47           b. Any individual who is entitled, under Title 10  
48 U.S.C. Chapter 1223, to retired pay for nonregular service or,  
49 but for age, would be entitled under that chapter to retired  
50 pay for nonregular service."

51           "§31-5-2

52           ~~There shall be a~~The State DepartmentBoard of  
53 ~~Veterans'~~Veterans Affairs ~~with subordinate bureaus and~~  
54 ~~divisions, which shall operate under~~ is established to  
55 oversee the State ~~Board~~Department of Veterans'Veterans  
56 Affairs, The department shall ~~and consist~~ be composed of a



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57 ~~State Service Commissioner~~commissioner and ~~such~~ other officers  
58 and employees authorized to be appointed under this chapter,  
59 ~~and meeting~~who meet the qualifications prescribed by the ~~state~~  
60 board."

61 "§31-5-3

62 (a) ~~(1) The State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~board shall  
63 ~~consist~~be composed of the Governor, as chair, and  
64 representatives, to serve for a term of four years from the  
65 date of their respective appointments, who shall be selected  
66 from the memberships of the Alabama Department of the American  
67 Legion, ~~the United Spanish American War Veterans,~~ the Veterans  
68 of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, ~~Veterans of~~  
69 ~~WWI of the USA, Incorporated,~~ the Vietnam Veterans of America,  
70 AMVETS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American  
71 Ex-Prisoners of War, Incorporated, the Alabama Alliance of the  
72 Military Officers Association of America, ~~Ine.~~ Incorporated,  
73 and the Marine Corps League, .

74 ~~(2) the~~The nomination of the representatives ~~to~~shall be  
75 made by the executive committees or similar governing bodies  
76 of the respective organizations ~~on the following ratio of the~~  
77 ~~membership as it existed on July 1 of the year in which the~~  
78 ~~appointment is to be made by the Governor in a manner whereby~~  
79 ~~there.~~ There shall be one representative from each of the  
80 organizations for the first 7,500 resident members, or  
81 fraction thereof, and one additional representative from each  
82 organization for each additional 7,500 resident members, or  
83 fraction thereof. The total memberships of the respective  
84 organizations shall be determined on July 1 of the year in



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85 which the representatives shall be designated from the state  
86 enrollment of each organization as duly verified for  
87 correctness by the adjutant or a similar officer of the  
88 organization. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the executive  
89 committees or similar governing bodies of the ~~above-named~~  
90 organizations shall each nominate to the Governor three  
91 veterans who are members of the organizations, ~~7~~ for each place  
92 on the board to which the organizations are entitled to have a  
93 nominee. The nominations shall also include, in representative  
94 proportions, veterans of every war which are included in the  
95 membership of the organizations. ~~The board shall have~~  
96 ~~authority to grant representation on the board, and on the~~  
97 ~~same basis of membership as provided in this section, to any~~  
98 ~~organization of veterans of the Second World War having a~~  
99 ~~national charter authorized by an act of Congress and~~  
100 ~~operating through local organizations in Alabama.~~

101 (3) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
102 appointments to assure that the membership of the board shall  
103 be is inclusive and reflect reflects the racial, gender,  
104 geographic, ~~urban/rural~~ urban, rural, and economic diversity of  
105 the state.

106 (b) The ~~state board~~, in conference with the ~~State~~  
107 ~~Service Commissioner~~ commissioner, shall ~~be responsible for the~~  
108 ~~adoption of~~ adopt and amend policies, rules, and regulations  
109 ~~for its government and for the government of the Department of~~  
110 ~~Veterans' Affairs~~ and rules as may be necessary to carryout  
111 this chapter.

112 (c) The ~~state board~~, subject to Section 31-5-6, ~~shall~~



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113 ~~have and exercise all rule-making powers of the department,~~  
114 ~~and may make regulations not inconsistent therewith or with~~  
115 ~~state law that it deems necessary for carrying out this~~  
116 ~~chapter. The board also may alter, repeal, or amend the~~  
117 ~~regulations or any of them. This rule-making power shall~~  
118 ~~include the establishment and promulgation of rules and~~  
119 ~~regulations, including amendments and repeals thereof, with~~  
120 ~~respect to~~ shall adopt rules governing the manner of  
121 performance of all functions and duties of the department and  
122 the various officers and employees ~~thereof~~, including the  
123 selection and appointment of all service commissioners and  
124 assistant commissioners, district managers, and veteran  
125 service officers. All rules and regulations shall be furnished  
126 ~~to the Personnel Board, and in accordance therewith, a list of~~  
127 ~~eligibles shall be established therefrom. Competition for~~  
128 ~~places on the eligible lists shall be limited to persons~~  
129 ~~meeting qualifications and requirements set up in the rules~~  
130 ~~and regulations. The rules and regulations shall have the~~  
131 force and effect of law and prima facie evidence thereof may  
132 be given in all courts and proceedings by the production of  
133 what purports to be an official printed copy of the  
134 regulations, alterations, repeal, or amendment.

135 (d) ~~The state~~ board may establish and operate through  
136 the ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ department a state  
137 ~~veterans' cemetery~~ veterans cemeteries and ~~make application~~ may  
138 apply to the government of the United States, or any  
139 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, for funds for  
140 the purpose of establishing, ~~the cemetery~~ operating, and



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141 maintaining the cemeteries. The department may enter into  
142 agreements with any subdivision of the state for assistance in  
143 operating the ~~cemetery~~cemeteries. The department shall own the  
144 land on which the ~~cemetery is~~cemeteries are located. The  
145 department may accept federal grant funds, funding from state  
146 subdivisions, donations from private sources, and federal plot  
147 allowance payments. All of these funds shall be deposited into  
148 the ~~Veterans'~~ Veterans Assistance Fund and may be used only  
149 for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a  
150 ~~veterans' cemetery~~veterans cemeteries. The department may  
151 accept suitable cemetery land, in accordance with federal  
152 ~~veterans'~~ veterans cemetery grant guidelines, from the federal  
153 government, state government, state subdivisions, private  
154 sources, and any other source wishing to transfer land for use  
155 as a ~~veterans'~~ veterans cemetery. No funds ~~will be~~ used for  
156 these projects may be from the Education Trust Fund. The ~~State~~  
157 ~~Service Commissioner~~ commissioner may execute deeds and other  
158 instruments of conveyance for the department. Any deed of  
159 cemetery property to the ~~Department of Veterans'~~  
160 ~~Affairs~~ department prior to August 1, 2012, is ratified and  
161 confirmed.

162 ~~(c) The state board shall have the power, and it shall~~  
163 ~~be its duty, to fix the salaries and minimum standards of~~  
164 ~~service and personnel of all service commissioners, and~~  
165 ~~subject to the state Merit System, where applicable, to fix~~  
166 ~~salaries and minimum standards of service and personnel,~~  
167 ~~according to the schedules and rules prescribed by the State~~  
168 ~~Personnel Board, for other employees and personnel.~~



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169           ~~(f)~~ (e) The ~~state board~~ shall hold meetings at times and  
170 ~~places to be prescribed~~ locations to be determined by rules of  
171 the ~~state board~~ or as ~~may be~~ designated by the chair.

172           ~~(g)~~ (f) The presence of a majority of the members at any  
173 regular or special meeting of the board shall constitute a  
174 quorum for the transaction of all business.

175           ~~(h)~~ (g) Members of the ~~state board~~ shall be entitled to  
176 a per diem, ~~not exceeding twenty-five dollars (\$25) per day,~~  
177 to be fixed by the board, and ~~the amount of~~ their traveling  
178 and other necessary expenses actually ~~paid out~~ incurred while  
179 ~~in attendance at the~~ attending meetings of the ~~state board~~ or  
180 on the business of the ~~state department~~."

181           "§31-5-4

182           (a) The ~~State Department of Veterans' Affairs~~  
183 department shall assist ~~every veteran~~ veterans of the United  
184 States in presenting and pursuing any credible claim the  
185 veteran may have against the United States arising out of his  
186 or her military service and in establishing the veteran's  
187 right to any privilege, preference, care, ~~or compensation,~~ or  
188 pension as provided for by the laws of the United  
189 States federal law or the laws of ~~the State of Alabama~~ this  
190 state, when the veteran requests assistance. ~~Whenever the~~ When  
191 a veteran who is applying to a representative of the ~~State~~  
192 ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ shall have department has  
193 executed a power of attorney to any ~~veterans'~~ veterans  
194 organization or the American Red Cross, which has entered into  
195 an agreement with the ~~State Department of Veterans'~~  
196 ~~Affairs~~ department, the representative shall ~~accept~~ do all of





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197 the following:

198 (1) Accept any credible claim or information pertaining  
199 to any claim, right, preference, privilege, compensation,  
200 pension, or application for care from the veteran.

201 (2) and advise Advise him or her as to the proper  
202 preparation of the ~~same~~ claim.

203 (3) and then arrange Arrange, upon request of the  
204 veteran, for the further handling, presenting, and prosecuting  
205 of the claim.

206 (b) Should any veteran making application to the State  
207 Department of Veterans' Affairs department not have given a  
208 power of attorney to any organization to represent the veteran  
209 in handling his or her affairs, the department shall advise  
210 the veteran of the organizations recognized by the ~~Veterans'~~  
211 ~~Administration~~ United States Department of Veterans Affairs to  
212 represent him or her and allow the veteran to make his or her  
213 choice of the organization he or she desires to represent him  
214 or her."

215 "§31-5-5

216 The State Department of Veterans' Affairs, by the State  
217 Service Commissioner department, through the commissioner, with  
218 the approval of the ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~ board, may  
219 contract with any organization of veterans which ~~has~~  
220 ~~regularly,~~ for a period of five years next preceding the date  
221 of ~~such~~ the contract, has maintained an established committee  
222 or agency rendering ~~similar~~ services to veterans, similar to  
223 ~~as~~ the services referred to in Section 31-5-4, to perform such  
224 ~~service~~ the services for veterans and to process any claims or



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225 matters of veterans who apply to the ~~State Department of~~  
226 ~~Veterans' Affairs~~department for assistance when the veterans  
227 have executed a power of attorney to the veterans'  
228 organization. The department, through the contract, shall  
229 compensate the ~~veterans~~ veterans' organizations on the basis  
230 of service rendered, which compensation shall be paid from  
231 sums appropriated to the ~~State Department of Veterans'~~  
232 ~~Affairs~~department. No ~~such~~ contract shall be made unless the  
233 ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~board determines ~~that~~, owing  
234 to the confidential relationships involved and the necessity  
235 of operating through agencies which the veterans involved will  
236 feel to be sympathetic towards their problems, that the  
237 services cannot satisfactorily be rendered ~~otherwise~~ other than  
238 through the agency of ~~such~~ the ~~veterans~~ veterans' organization  
239 and that the best interests of the veterans involved will be  
240 served if ~~such~~ the contract is made."

241 "§31-5-6

242 (a) ~~It shall be the duty of the State Board of~~  
243 ~~Veterans' Affairs to~~The board shall appoint a ~~State Service~~  
244 ~~Commissioner~~commissioner ~~who shall~~to serve for a term of four  
245 years subject to removal by the ~~state~~ board for cause. The  
246 commissioner shall be appointed on the basis of education,  
247 ability, and experience in handling veterans' affairs, and  
248 without regard to political affiliations. The commissioner  
249 shall be a resident of ~~the State of Alabama~~ this state and  
250 shall be a veteran who served on active duty for a period of  
251 60 days or more in the ~~military or naval forces~~ Armed Forces  
252 of the United States ~~in any war in which the United States~~



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253 ~~shall have been engaged,~~ and shall have been honorably  
254 ~~discharged therefrom,~~ and all subsequent appointees to the  
255 ~~office shall be selected in like manner and possess like~~  
256 ~~qualifications.~~

257 (b) ~~All administrative and executive duties and~~  
258 ~~responsibilities of the department shall be performed by the~~  
259 ~~State Service Commissioner,~~ subject to the authority of the  
260 ~~state board.~~ The ~~State Service Commissioner~~commissioner shall  
261 be the executive and administrative officer of the State  
262 ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs~~department, subject to the  
263 authority of the board, and ~~shall have the power to~~may issue  
264 administrative orders and directives to all officials and  
265 employees in the department.

266 (c) The ~~State Department of Veterans'~~  
267 ~~Affairs~~department, acting through the ~~State Service~~  
268 ~~Commissioner~~commissioner, shall be the designated agency of  
269 ~~the State of Alabama~~this state to represent the state and its  
270 veterans before the United States ~~Veterans'~~  
271 ~~Administration~~Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other  
272 agency dealing with the ~~interest~~interests of the veteran.

273 (d) The ~~State Service Commissioner~~commissioner, with  
274 the approval of the ~~state board,~~ ~~shall be empowered to~~may  
275 enter into reciprocal agreements with other states ~~under which~~  
276 ~~veterans who are residents of other states may be rendered~~  
277 ~~services in the State of Alabama~~to render services in this  
278 state to veterans who are nonresidents.

279 (e) The ~~State Service Commissioner~~commissioner, with  
280 the approval of the ~~state board,~~ shall appoint all ~~district~~



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281 ~~service commissioners and county service~~  
282 ~~commissioners~~ assistant commissioners, district managers, and  
283 veteran service officers as provided in this chapter, fix  
284 salaries, and establish minimum standards of service. This  
285 power shall be without regard to any limitation established by  
286 law, unless any law passed hereafter shall refer specifically  
287 to a particular officer or employee of the department.

288 (f) The ~~State Service Commissioner~~ commissioner shall  
289 appoint all ~~clerical and stenographic~~ personnel in the state  
290 department, ~~and in all county offices~~ as ~~is~~ authorized or may  
291 ~~hereafter~~ be authorized in the future under the ~~State~~ state  
292 Merit System and approved by the State Personnel Board.

293 (g) The ~~State Service Commissioner~~ commissioner, with  
294 the approval of the ~~state~~ board, may engage in activities  
295 designed to educate, recognize, and promote the mission of the  
296 board to veterans, the public, potential applicants, and other  
297 public agencies and, in doing so, may incur marketing  
298 expenditures for educational, informational, and promotional  
299 items to be used to further its purposes as determined by the  
300 board."

301 "§31-5-7

302 (a) The ~~State Service Commissioner~~ commissioner shall  
303 submit an annual budget to the ~~State Board of Veterans'~~  
304 ~~Affairs~~ board for its approval ~~an annual budget~~ of all funds  
305 appropriated by the Legislature to the department for the  
306 specific purposes for which they are appropriated, and also a  
307 budget of any federal funds which may be allotted to the state  
308 by the federal government for the purposes of the department



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309 according to the regulations of the federal authorities. ~~He~~The  
310 commissioner shall publish annually a full report of the  
311 operations and administration of the department, together with  
312 recommendations and suggestions, and submit ~~such~~the report to  
313 the ~~state~~ board.

314 (b) ~~It shall be the duty of the state commissioner~~The  
315 commissioner ~~to~~shall do all of the following:

316 (1) Prepare detailed plans for, and fully develop, a  
317 comprehensive statewide ~~veterans'~~veterans assistance program.

318 (2) Cooperate with all other heads of the state  
319 departments in coordinating the plans and programs of state  
320 agencies ~~which~~that may properly be utilized in the  
321 administration of various aspects of the problems of veterans,  
322 and dependents of veterans, such as the office of the State  
323 Adjutant General, the State Department of Education, the State  
324 Department of Human Resources, the State Department of Labor,  
325 ~~the State Planning Board, the State Board of Health,~~ and any  
326 other state agencies furnishing services to veterans.

327 (3) Provide a central contact between federal agencies  
328 dealing with the problems of veterans, ~~such as~~to include the  
329 United States ~~Veterans' Administration~~Department of Veterans  
330 Affairs, the Selective Service System, the Social Security  
331 Administration, the Department of Defense, and other federal  
332 agencies ~~on the one hand,~~ and ~~the several~~ state agencies  
333 ~~which~~that may administer ~~the various aspects of the veterans'~~  
334 services and benefits ~~on the other~~.

335 (4) Maintain central case records of all veterans  
336 seeking services or benefits to create a clearinghouse of



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337 information and facilitate the interchange of information and  
338 case histories among ~~the several~~ state administrative agencies  
339 and the federal agencies ~~to provide a clearinghouse of~~  
340 information.

341 ~~(c) Other duties of the state commissioner shall be to:~~

342 ~~(1) (5) Acquaint himself, his associates, Become~~  
343 acquainted, and acquaint department associates and the  
344 employees, with the laws, federal, state, and local, laws  
345 enacted for the benefit of members of the armed forces,  
346 veterans, and their families, and dependents.

347 ~~(2) (6) Collect data and information as to the about~~  
348 available facilities and services available to them, and  
349 cooperate with information or service agencies throughout the  
350 state, to inform members of the armed forces, veterans, their  
351 families, and dependents, and ~~the~~ military and civil  
352 authorities regarding the existence or availability of all of  
353 the following:

354 a. Educational training and retraining facilities.

355 b. Health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing  
356 services and facilities.

357 c. Employment and reemployment services.

358 d. Provisions of federal, state, and local laws  
359 affording rights, privileges, and benefits to members of the  
360 armed forces, veterans, and their families, and dependents.

361 e. Other matters of similar, relative, or appropriate  
362 natures.

363 ~~(3) (7) Aid Assist all ~~residents~~ resident veterans of the~~  
364 ~~State of Alabama who served in the military or naval forces or~~



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365 ~~other armed services of the United States during any war in~~  
366 ~~which the United States has been engaged, and members of the~~  
367 ~~armed services during the peace times who have been honorably~~  
368 ~~discharged from such service, and~~ their relatives,  
369 ~~beneficiaries, and dependents,~~ to receive receiving from  
370 the United States and this state ~~any and all~~ compensation,  
371 pensions, hospitalization, insurance, education, employment,  
372 loan guarantees, or any other aid or benefit to which they may  
373 be or may become entitled under existing laws of the United  
374 States or of this state, ~~or such as may be hereafter enacted,~~  
375 ~~and he shall perform such and perform other related duties in~~  
376 ~~connection therewith as may be assigned by the state board.~~

377 ~~(4)~~ (8) Cooperate and negotiate with the federal  
378 government, and all national, state, and local governmental,  
379 or private agencies for securing to secure additional services  
380 or benefits for veterans, their families, and their dependents  
381 who are residents of the State of Alabama this state.

382 ~~(5)~~ Develop and implement statewide plans for a  
383 repatriation program for proper reinterment, with appropriate  
384 honors, of the bodies of members of the armed services  
385 returned from temporary overseas cemeteries.

386 ~~(6)~~ Provide for and maintain an advisory, counselling,  
387 and assistance service for dependents of present members of  
388 the armed services in connection with dependency allotments  
389 and allowances.

390 ~~(7)~~ Disseminate information and instructions on a  
391 statewide basis pertaining to such acts as may be enacted from  
392 time to time by the Congress providing benefits for active



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393 ~~members of the armed forces, their beneficiaries and~~  
394 ~~dependents.~~

395 ~~(8) Assist former prisoners of war and civilian~~  
396 ~~internees to collect such indemnities and benefits as may be~~  
397 ~~authorized by Congress from seized assets of enemy nations.~~

398 ~~(9) Compile, publish, and distribute casualty lists~~  
399 ~~resulting from the Korean and Southeast Asian actions and any~~  
400 ~~subsequent hostilities and to aid survivors and dependents of~~  
401 ~~such survivors and dependents of such casualties to recover~~  
402 ~~all rightful benefits before or after termination of armed~~  
403 ~~service."~~

404 "§31-5-8

405 ~~The State Service Commissioner shall~~commissioner, with  
406 the approval of the ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~board, may  
407 ~~appoint one first assistant state service commissioner, who~~  
408 ~~shall be an attorney, and such other number of additional~~  
409 ~~assistant state service commissioners as the state board deems~~  
410 ~~necessary, who shall~~to serve as employees in the department,  
411 subject to the rules and regulations of the ~~state board~~.

412 ~~They~~Assistant commissioners shall be appointed on the basis of  
413 education, ability, and experience in handling veterans'  
414 affairs, and without regard to political affiliations. ~~Such~~The  
415 appointees shall be residents of ~~the State of Alabama~~, this  
416 state, ~~and~~ shall be veterans who served on active duty for a  
417 period of 60 days or more in the ~~military or naval forces~~  
418 Armed Forces of the United States ~~in any war in which the~~  
419 ~~United States shall have been engaged~~, and shall have been  
420 honorably discharged ~~therefrom~~, and all subsequent appointees





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421 ~~to such office shall be selected in like manner and shall be~~  
422 ~~possessed of like qualifications."~~

423 "§31-5-9

424 ~~(a) It shall be the duty of the State Service~~  
425 ~~Commissioner, subject to~~Except as provided in subsection (b),  
426 the commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of  
427 Veterans' Affairs~~board, to~~shall appoint a ~~county service~~  
428 ~~commissioner~~veteran service officer for each ~~of the several~~  
429 ~~counties in the State of Alabama~~county in the state, except as  
430 ~~provided in this section, and all appointees.~~ Each veteran  
431 service officer shall be ~~employees~~ an employee of the state  
432 department, and subject to the ~~authority and~~ rules of the  
433 state board. The ~~county service commissioner~~veteran service  
434 officer shall be a resident of ~~the~~this state, ~~and a~~ qualified  
435 elector therein, and shall be a veteran who served on active  
436 duty for a period of 60 days or more in the ~~military or naval~~  
437 ~~forces~~ Armed Forces of the United States ~~for a period of 60~~  
438 ~~days or more regardless of whether that service was during any~~  
439 ~~war in which the United States shall have been engaged, and~~  
440 shall have been honorably discharged ~~therefrom, and all~~  
441 ~~subsequent appointees to the office shall be selected in like~~  
442 ~~manner and possessed of like qualifications.~~ In making such  
443 appointments, consideration shall be given ~~as to whether the~~  
444 applicants are residents of the county. ~~It shall be the duty~~  
445 ~~of the State Service Commissioner~~ The commissioner and state  
446 board ~~to~~shall economize as far as possible in the  
447 administration of this ~~law~~section ~~in the several counties of~~  
448 ~~the state.~~



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449            (b) (1) ~~It shall be the duty of the state~~The  
450        commissioner, ~~subject to~~with the approval of the ~~state~~-board,  
451        ~~to study the requirements of each separate county, and to~~  
452        ~~decide from time to time~~shall determine whether ~~or not~~ there  
453        is a need for a ~~county service commissioner~~veteran service  
454        officer in any particular county. In ~~reaching a decision in~~  
455        ~~such matter~~making this determination, the ~~State Service~~  
456        ~~Commissioner~~commissioner and the ~~state~~-board shall ~~take into~~  
457        ~~consideration~~consider the total population of the county, the  
458        number of men and women inducted into the armed services from  
459        the county, the number of veterans present in the county, and  
460        special circumstances and facts involving the concentration of  
461        industries or other problems ~~which~~that may ~~have a tendency to~~  
462        increase or decrease the number of veterans in certain  
463        localities. ~~It shall be within the power of the State Service~~  
464        ~~Commissioner, subject to the approval of the state board, to~~  
465        ~~establish districts in the state, such districts to contain~~  
466        ~~one or more counties, wherever the number of veterans in the~~  
467        ~~counties composing such districts do not justify the~~  
468        ~~establishment of a separate county service commissioner's~~  
469        ~~office in each county in the district, and a central district~~  
470        ~~service commissioner's office shall be established at the most~~  
471        ~~central point in the district; provided, however, the district~~  
472        ~~offices must afford maximum services to veterans residing in~~  
473        ~~the district. It shall be the duty of the district service~~  
474        ~~commissioner to visit each county in the district on certain~~  
475        ~~specified days to be designated by the State Service~~  
476        ~~Commissioner for the purpose of assisting all veterans in the~~



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477 ~~counties. District service commissioners appointed under this~~  
478 ~~section shall be selected in the same manner as county service~~  
479 ~~commissioners, and shall be possessed of like qualifications.~~

480 (2) Where the circumstances do not justify establishing  
481 a separate office in each county, the commissioner, with the  
482 approval of the board, shall establish service areas in the  
483 state containing one or more counties and shall establish a  
484 service office for each service area in a location most  
485 advantageous to the veterans within each area.

486 (c) The commissioner, with the approval of the board,  
487 shall establish districts within the state, containing one or  
488 more counties or service areas, and shall appoint district  
489 managers to manage or assist veteran service officers.  
490 District managers appointed under this section shall be  
491 selected in the same manner and possess the same  
492 qualifications as veteran service officers."

493 "§31-5-10

494 (a) ~~The county service commissioner and district~~  
495 ~~service commissioner~~veteran service officer and district  
496 manager shall perform such the duties as may be prescribed by  
497 policies, rules, and regulations and instructions  
498 promulgated adopted by the State Board of Veterans'  
499 Affairs board and shall be administratively responsible to the  
500 State Service Commissionercommissioner.

501 (b) ~~It shall be the duty of the county service~~  
502 ~~commissioner and district service commissioner to~~The veteran  
503 service officer and district manager shall do all of the  
504 following:



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505 (1) Cooperate with and assist ~~the volunteer county~~  
506 ~~veterans' service committees in his district or county in the~~  
507 ~~development of a veterans' assistance program for his district~~  
508 ~~or county~~local veteran service organizations in developing  
509 assistance programs for veterans.

510 (2) Furnish information and data to the ~~office of the~~  
511 ~~State Service Commissioner~~commissioner relative to the various  
512 aspects of the ~~problems~~issues of veterans and dependents of  
513 veterans ~~in his jurisdiction.~~

514 (3) Provide ~~in his office~~ an information and referral  
515 service to veterans seeking aid and assistance in connection  
516 with matters pertaining to employment and reemployment,  
517 educational and vocational training, health, medical,  
518 rehabilitation, and housing services and facilities, emergency  
519 financial assistance, and other matters ~~of similar or relative~~  
520 ~~and~~as appropriate ~~natures.~~

521 (4) Cooperate with all national, state, and local  
522 governmental and private agencies offering services or any  
523 benefits to veterans, and their families, and dependents.

524 (5) ~~Aid all residents of the district or county who~~  
525 ~~served in the military or naval forces or other armed services~~  
526 ~~during any war in which the United States has been engaged,~~  
527 ~~and members of the armed services during peacetime who have~~  
528 ~~been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable from~~  
529 ~~the services, their relatives, beneficiaries, and dependents~~  
530 ~~to receive from the United States any and all compensation,~~  
531 ~~hospitalization, insurance, and other aid or benefits to which~~  
532 ~~they may be entitled under existing laws of the United States,~~



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533 ~~or such as may hereafter be enacted, and he shall perform such~~  
534 ~~other duties in connection therewith as may be assigned by the~~  
535 ~~state board.~~Assist all resident veterans and their relatives,  
536 beneficiaries, and dependents in receiving from the United  
537 States and this state all compensation, pension,  
538 hospitalization, insurance, education, employment, loan  
539 guarantees, or other aid or benefit to which they may be  
540 entitled under existing federal law or laws of this state, or  
541 which may be created, and perform all other related duties  
542 assigned by the board.

543 (6) ~~To seek~~Seek out and advise ~~the~~ veterans ~~of the~~  
544 ~~district or county~~ of their rights and benefits under federal  
545 and state and federal laws, and to encourage their taking  
546 advantage the use of the educational opportunity opportunities,  
547 including trade, and vocational training, and to offer counsel  
548 and advise to widows, orphans, and beneficiaries ~~to the end~~  
549 ~~that veterans and citizens of the county shall in order to~~  
550 secure the ~~maximum return from the~~ fullest extent of available  
551 benefits.

552 ~~(c) Each county service commissioner shall devote his~~  
553 ~~entire time to such duties."~~

554 "§31-5-11

555 ~~The State Service Commissioner, the assistant service~~  
556 ~~commissioner and each of the district service commissioners~~  
557 ~~and county service commissioners shall, before entering into~~  
558 ~~the duties of his office, subscribe and execute an oath of~~  
559 ~~office. The State Service Commissioner and the assistant state~~  
560 ~~service commissioner shall each execute and furnish a bond in~~



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561 ~~the penal sum of \$10,000, with sufficient surety to be~~  
562 ~~approved by the State Board of Veterans' Affairs, conditioned~~  
563 ~~upon the faithful performance of their official duties. Each~~  
564 ~~district service commissioner and county service commissioner~~  
565 ~~shall execute and furnish a bond in the penal sum of \$5,000~~  
566 ~~with sufficient surety to be approved by the State Service~~  
567 ~~Commissioner, conditioned upon the faithful performance of~~  
568 ~~their official duties. The premium of all such bonds for~~  
569 ~~officials in the department shall be paid by the State of~~  
570 ~~Alabama.~~ (a) The commissioner shall have a seal of office and,  
571 along with each assistant commissioner, district manager, and  
572 veteran service officer, shall subscribe and execute an oath  
573 before entering into the duties of his or her office.

574 (b) The commissioner shall designate employees to  
575 become notaries public who may administer oaths to any  
576 individual swearing to the correctness of any statement made  
577 in connection with any application for compensation,  
578 hospitalization, insurance, pension, or any other service,  
579 aid, or benefit to which the individual, or any other  
580 individual on whose behalf any statement is made, may be or  
581 may become entitled under existing federal law or laws of this  
582 state."

583 "§31-5-13

584 ~~The Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ department ~~and State~~  
585 ~~Service Commissioner~~ the commissioner shall maintain offices in  
586 the capital city of the state. ~~In each city of the state~~  
587 ~~wherein the United States Veterans' Administration maintains a~~  
588 ~~regional or branch office, the State Service Commissioner~~ The



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589 ~~commissioner,~~ under authority of the ~~State Board of Veterans'~~  
590 ~~Affairsboard,~~ in addition to ~~the office of any district~~  
591 ~~service commissioner or county service commissioner~~any service  
592 office, ~~may,~~ if he ~~deems~~deemed it necessary, may set up and  
593 maintain a service office staffed by an assistant ~~service~~  
594 commissioner, veteran service officer, or district manager,  
595 with ~~ample~~ sufficient clerical ~~assistants~~assistance."

596 "§31-5-14

597 (a) ~~For the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012, and~~  
598 ~~for fiscal years thereafter, salaries~~Salaries of officials and  
599 employees of the department, as provided for under in this  
600 chapter, and office, travel, and other expenses incidental to  
601 the proper establishment, operation, and maintenance of the  
602 department, ~~or offices of district or county service~~  
603 ~~commissioners,~~ or other offices established by the State  
604 Service Commissionercommissioner, as provided ~~for under in~~  
605 this chapter, may be paid by the State of Alabama, ~~from the~~  
606 State General Fund~~.~~.

607 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), provided, however,  
608 ~~that each county in the state in which a district service~~  
609 ~~commissioner's office or a county service~~  
610 ~~commissioner's~~veteran service officer's or district manager's  
611 office is established shall furnish suitable office space in  
612 the county courthouse, or another suitable location in the  
613 county ~~for the use of the district service commissioner or~~  
614 ~~county service commissioner~~ for his or her use, and the county  
615 shall pay all expenses associated with ~~operating~~the operation  
616 of the office, including, but not limited to, any rental,



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617 telephone, facsimile, business-class Internet, janitorial  
618 service, power, heating and air conditioning, employee  
619 parking, and other operational support or maintenance  
620 expenses. Personnel costs of department officials and  
621 employees are not considered expenses for which payment is  
622 required of the county."

623 Section 2. Relating to the Department of Veterans  
624 Affairs; to amend Sections 31-5-1, 31-5-2, 31-5-3, 31-5-4,  
625 31-5-5, 31-5-6, 31-5-7, 31-5-8, 31-5-9, 31-5-10, 31-5-11,  
626 31-5-13, 31-5-14, 31-5A-1, 31-5A-2, 31-5A-3, 31-5A-4, 31-5A-5,  
627 31-5A-6, 31-5A-7, 31-5A-8, 31-5A-9, 31-5A-10, and 31-5A-11,  
628 Code of Alabama 1975; to revise definitions; to rename  
629 professional employee positions; to provide for the  
630 appointment of an executive director to oversee the operation  
631 of state veterans homes; and to make nonsubstantive, technical  
632 revisions to update the existing code language to current  
633 style.

634 "§31-5A-1

635 The Legislature ~~hereby finds and determines~~ that there  
636 ~~currently exists~~ a significant need for health, nursing,  
637 medical, rehabilitative, and related housing structures for  
638 ~~those~~ residents of this state who have served their state and  
639 nation in its armed forces. The Legislature further finds ~~and~~  
640 ~~determines~~ that in order to meet this need, it is necessary  
641 ~~for there to be established~~ to establish a state veterans'  
642 ~~home or~~ veterans homes to be operated by the State Department  
643 ~~of Veterans' Affairs~~ department, and to vest in ~~such~~ the  
644 department ~~those powers and~~ the authority ~~that may be necessary~~





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645 ~~to enable it to accomplish the establishment and operation of~~  
646 ato establish and operate state veterans' home or veterans  
647 homes. This chapter shall be liberally construed in conformity  
648 with ~~the purposes expressed~~this purpose."

649 "§31-5A-2

650 As used in this chapter, ~~the term~~terms "board,"  
651 "commissioner," "department," and "veteran" shall have the  
652 same meaning ~~ascribed to such term~~as defined in Section  
653 31-5-1."

654 "§31-5A-3

655 ~~The State Department of Veterans' Affairs~~department is  
656 ~~designated as the agency of this state to receive federal aid~~  
657 ~~under Title 38, U.S.C., Sections 641 and 642, as amended. The~~  
658 ~~department is~~the sole agency authorized and ~~directed~~ to  
659 receive federal aid from the United States Department of  
660 ~~Veterans Administration~~Affairs or any other agency of the  
661 United States government authorized to pay federal aid to  
662 states for ~~soldiers'~~state homes under ~~Title 38,~~ U.S.C.,  
663 ~~Sections 641 and 642~~ §§ 1741 and 1742, as amended, and from  
664 any other federal law or act of Congress providing for the  
665 payment of funds to states for the care of or support of  
666 disabled ~~soldiers and sailors~~veterans in ~~the~~ state homes. The  
667 ~~department is authorized to~~may receive from any source gifts,  
668 contributions, bequests, and individual reimbursements, the  
669 receipt of which does not exclude any other source of revenue.  
670 All funds received by the department shall be deposited in the  
671 State Treasury in the Alabama ~~Veterans'~~Veterans Home Trust  
672 Fund as established in Section 31-5A-7, and ~~such~~the funds



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673 shall be expended ~~per authorization of~~ as authorized by the  
674 ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~board."

675 "§31-5A-4

676 The department shall contract with a non-governmental  
677 entity to operate ~~a state veterans' veterans home or homes~~ for  
678 the care and support of elderly or disabled veterans in ~~the~~  
679 ~~State of Alabama~~this state. Contracts for the procurement of  
680 services required to manage, administer, and operate a state  
681 ~~veterans' veterans~~ home shall be awarded on a competitive  
682 basis through the solicitation of proposals. The contract may  
683 be awarded to the vendor whose proposal is most advantageous  
684 to the state, taking into consideration cost factors, program  
685 suitability factors, management plan, excellence of program  
686 design, key personnel, corporate or company resources,  
687 financial condition of the vendor, corporate experience and  
688 past performance, and any other requirements deemed necessary  
689 by the ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~ board and expressed in  
690 its solicitation for proposals. Any contract awarded under  
691 this section shall be for a period not to exceed five years.  
692 The ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~ board is not required to  
693 select the vendor offering the lowest cost proposal but shall  
694 select the vendor who, in the board's discretion, offers the  
695 proposal most advantageous to ~~the State of Alabama~~this state.  
696 The award of contracts provided for herein described in this  
697 section are exempt from the requirements of Chapter 16 and  
698 Chapter 4 of Title 41."

699 "§31-5A-5

700 ~~It shall be the duty of the State Service Commissioner~~



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701 ~~to appoint a department representative for any Alabama state~~  
702 ~~veterans' home, subject to approval of the State Board of~~  
703 ~~Veterans' Affairs. The commissioner, subject to the approval~~  
704 ~~of the board, shall appoint an executive director for~~  
705 ~~oversight and coordination of all state veterans homes and~~  
706 ~~shall also appoint an on-site director for each state veterans~~  
707 ~~home. The department representative position herein provided~~  
708 ~~for executive director and director positions created pursuant~~  
709 ~~to this section shall be exempt status (non-merit), and shall~~  
710 ~~be subject to guidelines as established herein by the board.~~  
711 ~~Each department representative will~~ director shall be appointed  
712 on the basis of education, ability, and experience in the  
713 administration of medical facilities ~~and/or~~ nursing homes,  
714 without regard to political affiliations. Each ~~department~~  
715 ~~representative~~ director shall perform his or her duties in  
716 accordance with the rules, guidelines, and general policies ~~as~~  
717 ~~may be established by the State Board of Veterans'~~  
718 ~~Affairs~~ board and as provided in this chapter. ~~Each department~~  
719 ~~representative shall serve at the pleasure of the State Board~~  
720 ~~of Veterans' Affairs, and shall receive such compensation as~~  
721 ~~shall be determined by the board with the approval of the~~  
722 ~~Governor of the state. Each department representative shall~~  
723 ~~publish annually a full report of the operations and~~  
724 ~~administration of the state veterans' home that is under his~~  
725 ~~administration, together with recommendations and suggestions~~  
726 ~~for improvements in facilities and services, and submit such~~  
727 ~~report to the State Board of Veterans' Affairs."~~

728 "§31-5A-6



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729           The ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~board, in  
730 conference with the ~~State Service Commissioner of Veterans'~~  
731 ~~Affairs~~commissioner, shall ~~have the authority exclusively to~~  
732 do  
all of the following:

733           ~~(a) (1) To provide~~Provide for the operation of a ~~state~~  
734 ~~veterans' home or~~veterans homes for the care of and support of  
735 elderly and disabled veterans in ~~the State of Alabama~~this  
736 state as prescribed in this chapter~~;~~.

737           ~~(b) (2) To make necessary rules and regulations~~ Adopt  
738 rules for the creation and operation of any state ~~veterans'~~  
739 ~~homes~~veterans home~~;~~.

740           ~~(c) (3) To apply~~ Apply for and accept gifts, grants, and  
741 other contributions from the federal government or from any  
742 other governmental unit~~;~~.

743           ~~(d) (4) To use the~~ Use funds received from the federal  
744 government or from any other governmental unit for the  
745 purposes authorized and directed by the federal government or  
746 ~~such~~ other governmental unit in making the funds available~~;~~.

747           ~~(e) (5) To accept and use~~ Accept gifts, grants,  
748 donations, and contributions of real estate, both vacant and  
749 improved, facilities, services, or other property from  
750 individuals, firms, corporations, organizations, and  
751 associations, and from county and municipal corporations and  
752 their subdivisions, plus any other sources of revenue for any  
753 state ~~veterans'~~veterans homes. All expenditures from the trust  
754 fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the state  
755 Comptroller drawn on account held by the State Treasury based  
756 upon claims~~,~~ approved by the ~~State Board of Veterans'~~



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757 ~~Affairsboard, as provided in this section."~~

758           "§31-5A-7

759           (a) There is hereby created A trust fund in the State  
760 Treasury ~~a trust fund~~ is created for the benefit of the  
761 ~~Alabama Department of Veterans'~~ State Department of Veterans  
762 ~~Affairs,~~ to be known as the Alabama Veterans' Veterans Home  
763 ~~Trust Fund.~~

764           (b) The trust fund shall consist of all funds and  
765 ~~monies~~ received by the ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs and/or~~  
766 ~~the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ board or the  
767 department from the United States, any federal agency or  
768 institution, gifts, contributions, bequests, any individual  
769 reimbursements, and any other source, for the care or support  
770 of veterans, discharged other than under dishonorable  
771 conditions, who have been admitted and cared for at an ~~Alabama~~  
772 ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ state veterans' home  
773 veterans home.

774           (c) Nothing contained herein in this section prohibits  
775 the establishment and utilization of special agency accounts  
776 by the ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ department and its  
777 constituent institutions, as may be approved by the ~~State~~  
778 ~~Board of Veterans' Affairs~~ board, for receipt and disbursement  
779 of the personal funds of state ~~veterans'~~ veterans home  
780 residents and members ~~and/or~~ or for receipt and disbursement  
781 of charitable contributions and donations for use by and for  
782 the benefit of residents and members.

783           (d) The trust fund herein created pursuant to this  
784 section shall be used by the ~~Alabama Department of Veterans'~~



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785 ~~Affairs department~~ to pay for the care of veterans, discharged  
786 other than under dishonorable conditions, in ~~the a~~ state  
787 ~~veterans' veterans~~ home and to pay the general operating  
788 expenses of ~~the a~~ state ~~veterans' veterans~~ home, including the  
789 payment of salaries and wages of officials and employees.  
790 ~~Further provided, that funds~~ Funds in ~~said the~~ trust fund may be  
791 used to remodel, repair, construct, build additions,  
792 modernize, or add improvements of domiciliary or hospital  
793 buildings necessary for the care of veterans, plus  
794 architectural plans, specifications, or other pertinent costs  
795 ~~pertinent thereto~~ as approved by appropriate state agencies.  
796 All funds deposited, plus income earned on ~~the~~ investment or  
797 reinvestment, shall be credited to the trust fund created  
798 ~~herein~~ pursuant to this section. Any money remaining in the  
799 fund at the end of each fiscal year shall remain on deposit in  
800 the State Treasury to the credit of the Alabama  
801 ~~Veterans' Veterans~~ Home Trust Fund. No funds shall be withdrawn  
802 or expended for any purpose ~~whatsoever~~ unless ~~the same~~  
803 ~~shall~~ the funds have been allotted and budgeted in accordance  
804 with the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, and  
805 only in the amounts and for the purposes provided by the  
806 Legislature in the General Appropriation Act."

807 "§31-5A-8

808 (a) Admissions to and discharges from any ~~Alabama~~ state  
809 ~~veterans' veterans~~ home shall be in accordance with the  
810 policies and procedures ~~as~~ established by the ~~State Board of~~  
811 ~~Veterans' Affairs~~ board at the time an application for  
812 admission or for discharge is ~~presented~~ submitted; ~~provided,~~



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813 ~~however, that the State Board of Veterans' Affairs.~~

814 (b) The board may admit and discharge veterans to any  
815 ~~Alabama veterans'~~ state veterans home who qualify for care and  
816 treatment under ~~Title 38, U.S.C., Section 101 (19) and Section~~  
817 ~~641 §§ 1710 and 1741,~~ and may adopt ~~appropriate~~ rules  
818 consistent with accepted medical considerations to carry out  
819 this function."

820 "§31-5A-9

821 (a) The State Board of Veterans' Affairs ~~board~~ shall  
822 report annually to the Governor ~~annually~~ ~~respecting~~ the  
823 activities of the ~~State Department of Veterans' Affairs in~~  
824 ~~connection with~~ department regarding the operation of the state  
825 ~~veterans'~~ veterans homes. ~~This~~

826 (b) The annual report shall contain an accounting ~~for~~ of  
827 all ~~moneys~~ monies received and expended, statistics on veterans  
828 who resided in the homes during the year, recommendations to  
829 the Governor and the Legislature, and ~~such~~ other matters ~~as~~  
830 ~~the board shall deem~~ deemed pertinent by the board.

831 (c) The State Service Commissioner ~~commissioner~~, with  
832 the approval of the ~~State Board of Veterans' Affairs~~ ~~board~~,  
833 shall compile an annual budget request, as necessary,  
834 ~~respecting~~ listing needs for state funding for anticipated  
835 costs of ~~such~~ veterans homes, ~~which~~ The budget request shall  
836 be submitted to the Department of Finance in conjunction with  
837 the ~~State Department of Veterans' Affairs~~ department's annual  
838 budget requests."

839 "§31-5A-10

840 Each resident of any state ~~veterans'~~ veterans home shall



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841 pay directly to the contracted service operator of the home  
842 the cost of maintaining his or her residence at the home. The  
843 cost shall be ~~as prescribed~~ determined by the ~~State Board of~~  
844 ~~Veterans' Affairs~~ board in conference with the ~~State Service~~  
845 ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner. The cost of the care shall be paid  
846 by the 10th day of each month."

847 "§31-5A-11

848 (a) Any home in addition to the one located in  
849 Alexander City, Alabama, or any proposed new service or  
850 proposed change of service or any requirement then deemed  
851 applicable shall be subject to the certificate of need  
852 process, the Department of Public Health Division of Licensure  
853 and Certification and any and all review and approval  
854 processes, criteria, statutory, and administrative rules and  
855 regulations then applicable to any proposed privately-owned  
856 and/or operated nursing home facility or health care provider  
857 seeking to operate in Alabama. All state veterans' veterans  
858 nursing homes, domiciliaries, hospitals, or any other health  
859 related activities shall be subject to all the rules and  
860 regulations governing and controlling the operation of a  
861 privately-owned facility or provider of health services in the  
862 State of Alabama this state, including the certificate of need  
863 process and the Department of Public Health Division of  
864 Licensure and Certification requirements.

865 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the veterans homes  
866 currently located in Alexander City, Bay Minette, and  
867 Huntsville, Alabama, are not subject to the certificate of  
868 need process."





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869           Section 3. Section 31-5-12, Code of Alabama 1975,  
870 relating to the sealing of documents, is repealed.

871           Section 4. This act shall become effective on October  
872 1, 2024.



**HB103 Enrolled**

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 02-Apr-24, as amended.

John Treadwell  
Clerk

Senate

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**08-May-24**

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Passed