

**SB221 ENGROSSED**



1 A1IP7Q-2  
2 By Senator Butler  
3 RFD: State Governmental Affairs  
4 First Read: 19-Apr-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the State Board of Genetic Counseling; to amend Sections 34-13A-3 and 34-13A-10, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the board to conduct regular meetings by electronic means; and to authorize the board to make grants to develop training and continuing education programs for genetic counselors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 34-13A-3 and 34-13A-10 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§34-13A-3

(a) The State Board of Genetic Counseling is created to implement and administer this chapter.

(b) The membership of the board shall consist of all of the following:

(1) One individual appointed by the Department of Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

(2) Four individuals who practice genetic counseling in Alabama and who hold a master's degree or doctoral degree in genetic counseling from an ACGC or ABMGG accredited training program, or an equivalent program approved by the ACGC or the



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29 ABMGG, appointed by the Governor.

30 (3) One physician appointed by the Medical Association  
31 of the State of Alabama.

32 (4) One physician appointed by the State Board of  
33 Medical Examiners.

34 (5) One physician who specializes in pediatric genetics  
35 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

36 (6) One physician appointed by the Speaker of the House  
37 of Representatives.

38 (c) Board members appointed by the Governor shall serve  
39 for terms of two years and, upon the expiration of a term, may  
40 continue to serve until replaced or reappointed. All other  
41 board members shall serve until they are replaced by their  
42 respective appointing authority.

43 (d) The board shall annually elect from its membership  
44 a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary.

45 (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
46 appointments ~~so that diversity of~~ to assure the board  
47 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, ~~race,~~  
48 ~~and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup~~ geographic,  
49 urban, rural, and economic diversity of this state.

50 (f) Unless acting unreasonably or in bad faith, no  
51 member of the board shall be civilly liable for acting within  
52 the scope of his or her duties as a board member.

53 (g) Members of the board shall serve without  
54 compensation but, to the extent funds are available, may  
55 receive the same per diem and travel allowance as state  
56 employees.



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57 (h) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), members  
58 of the board may participate in a regular meeting of the board  
59 by means of telephone conference, video conference, or similar  
60 communications equipment pursuant to the Alabama Open Meetings  
61 Act.

62 (2) Members of the board may only participate in a  
63 meeting of the board relating to a disciplinary action in  
64 person."

65 "§34-13A-10

66 There is established in the State Treasury a separate  
67 special revenue trust fund known as the Genetic Counseling  
68 Fund. All receipts collected by the board pursuant to this  
69 chapter shall be deposited into the fund and shall be used  
70 only to implement this chapter. The receipts shall be  
71 disbursed only by warrant of the Comptroller upon the State  
72 Treasury, upon itemized vouchers approved by the executive  
73 director, or the board if no executive director is employed.  
74 The board may make grants, and otherwise arrange with  
75 qualified individuals, institutions, or agencies to develop  
76 and promote genetic counseling programs and continuing  
77 education programs for licensees. No funds may be withdrawn or  
78 expended except as budgeted and allotted according to Sections  
79 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and Sections 41-19-1 to  
80 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the  
81 general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills."

82 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
83 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
84 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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87 Senate

88 Read for the first time and referred .....19-Apr-23  
89 to the Senate committee on State  
90 Governmental Affairs  
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92 Read for the second time and placed .....11-May-23  
93 on the calendar:  
94 1 amendment  
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96 Read for the third time and passed .....16-May-23  
97 as amended  
98 Yeas 34  
99 Nays 0  
100 Abstains 0

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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