

1 SJR63
2 169081-1
3 By Senators Williams, Holtzclaw, Whatley and Dial
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 12-MAY-15

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8 EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLAN OF THE
9 ALABAMA EXECUTIVE VETERANS NETWORK.

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11 WHEREAS, Governor Robert Bentley created the Alabama
12 Executive Veterans Network (AlaVetNet) in December 2013; and

13 WHEREAS, the AlaVetNet was created to study and
14 evaluate the services provided by the state to the military
15 and to create a long range plan for improving the well-being
16 of military service members, veterans, and their families in
17 the areas of education, employment, health, homelessness,
18 legal assistance, and family services; and

19 WHEREAS, the strategies of the AlaVetNet also
20 incorporate methods to identify existing resources, establish
21 a database of resources, and employ strategic measures to
22 increase communication and awareness of resources among
23 military service members, veterans, and their families; and

24 WHEREAS, the AlaVetNet released its long range plan
25 in October 2014, which outlined the following strategies for
26 each area of interest:

1 (1) Develop networking relationships among providers
2 that serve service members, veterans, and their families for
3 behavioral health needs and focus on a path of resolution.

4 (2) Reduce veteran unemployment below five percent
5 for current and future Alabama veterans, improve veteran
6 underemployment, and improve veteran retention.

7 (3) Educate to inform and train veterans,
8 communicate to inform and involve stakeholders, such as
9 corporations, nonprofit organizations, government, and the
10 public.

11 (4) Reflect a broad spectrum of homeless and housing
12 representatives and establish a coordinated access system of
13 homeless services for service members, veterans, and their
14 families.

15 (5) Provide legal assistance to service members,
16 veterans, and their families and advocate for the passing and
17 amending of state law to further benefits and services for
18 service members, veterans, and their families.

19 (6) Promote and connect available resources and
20 benefits for military and veteran families, educate businesses
21 in military culture, and evaluate services for best practices
22 and allow for feedback.

23 To be successful, AlaVetNet will identify service
24 members, veterans, and their families, determine their needs,
25 and link them with existing support resources through the
26 public, private, non-profit, and corporate communities; and

1 WHEREAS, a concerted strategic communications
2 effort, linked to an all encompassing website will be the
3 foundation for information sharing; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alabama National Guard's Joining
5 Community Forces program will provide the local city and
6 county forum for implementing the AlaVetNet strategic plan
7 throughout the state; now therefore,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
9 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we fully support the long
10 range plan of the Alabama Executive Veterans Network and
11 encourage other state and local governmental agencies to fully
12 comply with assisting the AlaVetNet in providing improved
13 services to service members, veterans, and their families.