

HOUSE BILL 895

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58,
Chapter 3, relative to Veterans' Service Officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The general assembly finds that members of the armed services provide protection and defense of the United States of America by their service and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans, and, further, that veterans of the armed services deserve support and gratitude in every community. The general assembly further finds that Veterans' Service Officers (VSOs) provide an outstanding linkage for the veteran to the veterans administration and other federal and state agencies, as well as to opportunities in the community, resulting in positive benefits for the veteran and the host community. Accordingly, the general assembly finds that a person serving as a VSO in any county or city in this state should be given the status and compensation, including benefits, accorded department heads of general government in each respective jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-3-109, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(d) The initial compensation of a veterans' service officer shall be no less than the average pay received by department heads of the general government of the jurisdiction, which shall be annually increased by no less than the average cost-of-living adjustment provided to general government employees of the jurisdiction. The veterans' service officer shall be entitled to the same benefits as general government employees of the jurisdiction, and shall be provided reasonable office space and administrative support.

(e) The compensation of current veterans' service officers shall be no less

than the amount provided in subsection (d). Current veterans' service officers shall likewise be entitled to the same benefits and support as provided in subsection (d).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.