

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 624

5 By: Senator D. Wallace  
6 By: Representative Love  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROGRAMS PROVIDING  
10 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROGRAMS  
16 PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO  
17 COUNTIES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
18 AFFAIRS.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-81-106 is amended to read as follows:  
24 20-81-106. County programs.

25 (a)(1) The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to establish,  
26 implement, and maintain a program for providing financial assistance to the  
27 counties to assist the counties in paying the salaries and expenses of county  
28 veterans' service officers.

29 (2) Any program established and maintained by the Department of  
30 Veterans Affairs shall provide for financial assistance to applying counties  
31 on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) of state funds for each two dollars  
32 (\$2.00) of county funds provided for the payment of the salary and expenses  
33 of the particular veterans' service officer of the applying county.

34 ~~(3)(A) No county shall~~ Except as provided in subdivision  
35 (a)(3)(B) of this section, a county shall not receive financial assistance  
36 under the provisions of this act in excess of three thousand six hundred



1 dollars (\$3,600) in any fiscal year.

2 (B) However, the financial assistance to counties under  
3 this section may be increased to a maximum of four thousand eight hundred  
4 dollars (\$4,800) per year for those counties wherein the veteran population  
5 exceeds two thousand five hundred (2,500) veterans as reflected by the latest  
6 United States Department of Veterans Affairs report on veteran population.

7 (b)(1) In addition to the financial assistance provided under this  
8 act, the Department of Veterans Affairs may provide an additional incentive  
9 payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) per quarter of the fiscal year to  
10 counties that ensure the county’s veteran’s service officers obtain or  
11 maintain accreditation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

12 (2) In addition to the financial assistance provided under this  
13 act, the Department of Veterans Affairs may provide an additional incentive  
14 payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) per quarter of the fiscal year to  
15 counties that ensure the county’s veteran’s service officers obtain or  
16 maintain access to and proficiency in the United States Department of Veteran  
17 Affairs’ Veterans Benefits Management System.

18 ~~(4)(c)~~ Assistance grants ~~pursuant to~~ under this section may be  
19 made only to those counties employing a county veterans’ service officer who  
20 meets the training and testing qualifications, scheduled number of work hours  
21 per month, and other qualifications prescribed by the Department of Veterans  
22 Affairs for county veterans’ service officers.

23 ~~(b)(d)~~(1) The county veterans’ service officers shall serve at the  
24 pleasure of the individual incumbent county judge in his or her respective  
25 county.

26 (2) However, supervision, training, and testing of county  
27 veterans’ service officers shall be the responsibility of the Department of  
28 Veterans Affairs.

29  
30  
31 **APPROVED: 4/27/21**  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36