

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S1/16/13 S1/22/13*

2 89th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL 3

4

5 By: Senators J. English, *E. Williams*

6 By: Representatives Kerr, *J. Edwards*

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS VETERANS' HOME TASK  
10 FORCE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS VETERANS' HOME  
16 TASK FORCE AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 *DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Veterans' Home Task Force.*

22 (a) There is hereby created the "Arkansas Veterans' Home Task Force".

23 (b) The task force shall consist of twenty-two (22) members as  
24 follows:

25 (1) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of  
26 the Senate;

27 (2) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
28 Representatives;

29 (3) The Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

30 (4) The Chair of the Arkansas Veterans' Commission or his or her  
31 designee;

32 (5) A representative, chosen by the organization, of each of the  
33 following veteran organizations:

34 (A) The American Legion, Department of Arkansas;

35 (B) The Disabled American Veterans, Department of  
36 Arkansas;



1 (C) The Arkansas Council of Chapters of the Military  
2 Officers Association of America;

3 (D) The Arkansas Veterans Coalition; and

4 (E) The Department of Arkansas Veterans of Foreign Wars;

5 (6) The Director of the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare  
6 System or his or her designee; and

7 (7) The following ex officio members of the task force:

8 (A) The Director of the Arkansas Building Authority or his  
9 or her designee;

10 (B) The State Procurement Director or his or her designee;

11 (C) The four (4) Arkansas members of the United States  
12 House of Representatives or their respective designees; and

13 (D) The two (2) Arkansas members of the United States  
14 Senate or their respective designees.

15 (c) If a vacancy occurs for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled in  
16 the same manner as the original appointment.

17 (d) The task force shall conduct its meetings in Pulaski County at the  
18 State Capitol.

19 (e) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one (1) of  
20 the Senate members of the task force to organize the first meeting of the  
21 task force and serve as chair at the first meeting.

22 (f)(1) By May 1, 2013, the task force shall conduct its first meeting  
23 and elect a chair from among its membership.

24 (2) After its first meeting, the task force shall meet upon the  
25 call of the chair but shall meet at least one (1) time per month.

26 (3) The task force shall be dissolved after making its report  
27 under subsection (i) of this section.

28 (g)(1) A quorum is required for any action by the task force.

29 (2) Eleven (11) members shall constitute a quorum for the  
30 purpose of transacting the business of the task force.

31 (h)(1) The task force shall study issues related to opening a new  
32 Arkansas Veterans' Home or homes and develop specific recommendations for  
33 review, consideration, and implementation by the General Assembly.

34 (2) Issues to be studied by the task force include without  
35 limitation:

36 (A) A needs assessment to evaluate the:

1 (i) Number of current and future Arkansas veterans  
2 who have a need for such a facility; and

3 (ii) Extent of services to be offered by any  
4 Arkansas Veterans Home or homes.

5 (B) The location or locations for facilities, to include  
6 an evaluation of:

7 (i) Whether existing facilities are available to  
8 meet the needs identified in subdivision (h)(2)(A) of this section; and

9 (ii) Possible locations for new facilities;

10 (C) The cost of design and construction of new facilities  
11 or of utilizing existing facilities; and

12 (D) The manner and method of funding remodeling or new  
13 construction.

14 (i) On or before October 31, 2013, the task force shall submit its  
15 report containing its findings and recommendations to the:

16 (1) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative  
17 and Military Affairs;

18 (2) Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs;  
19 and

20 (3) Legislative Council.

21 (j) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff for the  
22 task force.

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24 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
25 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas veterans are not  
26 receiving the care and security to which they are entitled as a result of  
27 their valuable service to the State of Arkansas and the United States of  
28 America, and that exploration and implementation of alternatives for the care  
29 of those veterans in need of institutional and other care are of immediate  
30 concern and should be among the highest priorities of the General Assembly.  
31 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately  
32 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
33 become effective on:

34 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

2 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
3 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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5 */s/J. English*

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8 **APPROVED: 02/06/2013**

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