

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H3/7/19

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 4

5 By: Senator T. Garner  
6 By: Representative Wardlaw  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON  
10 VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

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13  
14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY  
15 ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.  
16  
17

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

20 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Legislative  
21 Study on Veterans Affairs – Creation – Purpose.

22 (a) The House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative  
23 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on State Agencies and  
24 Governmental Affairs shall meet jointly to conduct the Arkansas Legislative  
25 Study on Veterans Affairs.

26 (b)(1) The chair of the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,  
27 and Legislative and Military Affairs and the chair of the Senate Committee on  
28 State Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall call the first joint meeting of  
29 the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military  
30 Affairs and the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs  
31 to begin the study within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act.

32 (2) In order to interact directly with veterans throughout the  
33 State of Arkansas, the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,  
34 Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on State Agencies  
35 and Governmental Affairs may hold meetings at various sites throughout the  
36 state.



1           (3) Joint meetings of the House Committee on Aging, Children and  
2 Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on State  
3 Agencies and Governmental Affairs for the purpose of conducting the study  
4 shall be held at least one (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more  
5 often at the call of the chairs.

6           (4) The members of the House Committee on Aging, Children and  
7 Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on State  
8 Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall be paid per diem and mileage as  
9 authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the  
10 General Assembly.

11           (c)(1) The purpose of the study is to examine veterans' issues within  
12 the State of Arkansas, including without limitation the occurrence of suicide  
13 among the veteran population in this state.

14           (2) In carrying out the purpose of this act, the House Committee  
15 on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate  
16 Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall:

17                   (A) Study risk factors for suicide in veterans;

18                   (B) Review and research options for preventing or reducing  
19 the occurrence of suicide among the veteran population in the state;

20                   (C) Examine mental health care available to veterans  
21 within the state;

22                   (D) Conduct at least one (1) town-hall-style meeting to  
23 hear from veterans in the state and their concerns regarding mental health  
24 care and other issues affecting veterans in the state;

25                   (E) Engage the following:

26                           (i) The Department of Veterans Affairs;

27                           (ii) The Department of Health; and

28                           (iii) Mental health professionals licensed to  
29 practice in this state;

30                   (F) Review best practices among other states;

31                   (G) Review methods to create a statewide program targeting  
32 suicide prevention and preventative mental health care for veterans; and

33                   (H) Study and review other issues that the House Committee  
34 on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate  
35 Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs deem relevant to  
36 improving the productivity and wellness of veterans residing in this state.

