

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S1/16/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 3

5 By: Senators J. English, *E. Williams*
6 By: Representatives Kerr, *J. Edwards*
7

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.
12
13

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS VETERANS' HOME
15 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 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.
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23 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 81, Subchapter 1, is
24 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 20-81-113. Arkansas Veterans' Home Task Force.

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

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

29 (1) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
30 the Senate;

31 (2) Three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
32 Representatives;

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

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

36 (5) A representative, chosen by the organization, of each of the



1 following veteran organizations:

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

3 (B) The Disabled American Veterans, Department of
4 Arkansas;

5 (C) The Arkansas Council of Chapters of the Military
6 Officers Association of America;

7 (D) The Arkansas Veterans Coalition; and

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

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

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

12 (A) The Director of the Arkansas Building Authority or his
13 or her designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (h)(1) The task force shall study issues related to opening a new
36 Arkansas Veterans' Home or homes and develop specific recommendations for

1 review, consideration, and implementation by the General Assembly.

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

4 (A) A needs assessment to evaluate the:

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

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

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

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

13 (ii) Possible locations for new facilities;

14 (C) The cost of design and construction of new facilities
15 or of utilizing existing facilities; and

16 (D) The manner and method of funding remodeling or new
17 construction.

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

20 (1) House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
21 and Military Affairs; and

22 (2) Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor.

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

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26 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
27 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas veterans are not
28 receiving the care and security to which they are entitled as a result of
29 their valuable service to the State of Arkansas and the United States of
30 America, and that exploration and implementation of alternatives for the care
31 of those veterans in need of institutional and other care are of immediate
32 concern and should be among the highest priorities of the General Assembly.
33 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
34 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
35 become effective on:

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

