

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 624

By: Senator D. Wallace
By: Representative Love

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING PROGRAMS
PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
COUNTIES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPROVED: 4/27/21