

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

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S1/16/13 S1/22/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 3

By: Senators J. English, E. Williams
By: Representatives Kerr, J. Edwards

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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

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

DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Veterans' Home Task Force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) The American Legion, Department of Arkansas;

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



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

(D) The Arkansas Veterans Coalition; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) A needs assessment to evaluate the:

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

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

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

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

(ii) Possible locations for new facilities;

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Legislative Council.

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

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

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

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

bill; or

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

/s/J. English