

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S1/30/25
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1056

By: Representative Evans

By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 10, Chapter 3, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 33 –

Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

10-3-3301. Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs – Creation – Members.

(a) There is established a joint committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be known as the “Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs”.

(b)(1) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall be a select committee of the House of Representatives and a joint committee of the Senate whose members shall be selected as follows:

(A)(i) Twelve (12) members of the House of Representatives to be selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(ii) One (1) alternate member for each of the House



members of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall be selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(iii) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection; and

(B)(i) Eight (8) members of the Senate to consist of the members of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs.

(ii) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as a vacancy is filled on the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs.

(2) Members appointed to the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall serve on the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs in addition to their service on the regular standing, joint, and select committees of the General Assembly.

(3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one (1) of the House members of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs as the House Cochair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and one (1) of the House members of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs as the House Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

(4) The Chair of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall serve as the Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall serve as the Senate Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

10-3-3302. Powers and Duties of Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

(a) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs may meet during:

(1) A regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session of the General Assembly;

(2) An extended recess of the General Assembly; and

(3) The interim between legislative sessions of the General Assembly.

(b) A bill or resolution introduced during a legislative session in either house of the General Assembly pertaining to military or veterans

affairs may be referred to the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

(c)(1) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall make continuing studies concerning issues related to military and veterans affairs, either initiated by the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs or referred to it by either house of the General Assembly for study.

(2) Interim study proposals and resolutions filed with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the appropriate interim committee of the General Assembly, relating to military and veterans affairs, shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

10-3-3303. Interim committee meetings – Expenses – Staff.

(a)(1) Members are entitled to per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs at the rate provided by law to be paid from funds appropriated for payment of per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) The per diem and mileage, including reimbursement for expenses for attending out-of-state meetings as provided by law, shall be paid from funds appropriated for per diem, mileage, and expenses of members of the General Assembly for attending interim committee meetings or from other funds provided by law for that purpose.

(b) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish such staff assistance as may be requested by the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

(c) All other appropriate state agencies, including without limitation the Department of the Military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be available to assist the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs on matters before it, as may be requested by the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the State of Arkansas faces increased and ongoing issues due to the growth of the military presence in the state, that the state must face and address these issues to better

protect our veterans and their families, that protection of our veterans and their families is paramount to the safety of our state and nation, and that this act is immediately necessary as veterans' issues are crucial and vital to the State of Arkansas. 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/Evans