

1 SB263  
2 157102-1  
3 By Senator Whatley  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 22-JAN-14

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, with certain exceptions,  
9 the age of majority in this state is 19 years.

10 This bill would designate the age of  
11 majority as 18 years for the purpose of giving  
12 consent to participate in certain research  
13 conducted by a college or university.

14  
15 A BILL  
16 TO BE ENTITLED  
17 AN ACT

18  
19 To amend Section 26-1-1, Code of Alabama 1975,  
20 relating to the age of majority, to designate the age of  
21 majority as 18 years for the purpose of giving consent to  
22 participate in certain research conducted by a college or  
23 university.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. Section 26-1-1 of the Code of Alabama  
26 1975, is amended to read as follows:

27 "§26-1-1.

1           "(a) Any person in this state, at the arrival at the  
2 age of 19 years, shall be relieved of his or her disabilities  
3 of minority and thereafter shall have the same legal rights  
4 and abilities as persons over 21 years of age. No law of this  
5 state shall discriminate for or against any person between and  
6 including the ages of 19 and 21 years solely on the basis of  
7 age.

8           "(b) This section shall also apply to any person who  
9 arrived at the age of 19 and 20 years before July 22, 1975,  
10 but shall not abrogate any defense or abridge any remedy  
11 available to him or her prior to such date.

12           "(c) All laws or parts of laws which read "under the  
13 age of 21 years" hereafter shall read "under the age of 19  
14 years." Wherever the words "under the age of 21 years" appear  
15 in any law limiting the legal rights and abilities of persons  
16 under such age, such words shall be construed to mean under  
17 the age of 19 years.

18           "(d) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ subsection  
19 (c) ~~of this section~~, nothing in this section shall be deemed  
20 to repeal any provision of Chapter 19 of Title 15 ~~of this~~  
21 ~~code~~.

22           "(e) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ subsection  
23 (a), an honorably discharged veteran who is under the age of  
24 19 shall be permitted to enter into a contract for the  
25 purchase of a motor vehicle.

26           "(f) Notwithstanding subsection (a), or any other  
27 provision of law to the contrary, a person who is 18 years of

1 age or older may consent to participate in research conducted  
2 by a college or university that is accredited by a federally  
3 recognized accrediting agency if the research has been  
4 approved by the Institutional Review Board of the  
5 institution."

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective  
7 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
8 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.