

# HB353 INTRODUCED



1 M8FO11-1  
2 By Representatives Rogers, Morris, Sellers, Crawford, Moore  
3 (M), Givan  
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions  
5 First Read: 20-Apr-23  
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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the State Board of Genetic Counseling is responsible for the licensing and regulation of genetic counselors and the practice of genetic counseling in the state.

This bill would authorize the board to conduct regular meetings pursuant to electronic means.

This bill would also authorize the board to make grants to develop training and continuing education programs for genetic counselors.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the State Board of Genetic Counseling; to amend Sections 34-13A-3 and 34-13A-10, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the board to conduct regular meetings by electronic means; and to authorize the board to make grants to develop training and continuing education programs for genetic counselors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 34-13A-3 and 34-13A-10 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:



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29           "§34-13A-3

30           (a) The State Board of Genetic Counseling is created to  
31 implement and administer this chapter.

32           (b) The membership of the board shall consist of all of  
33 the following:

34           (1) One individual appointed by the Department of  
35 Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

36           (2) Four individuals who practice genetic counseling in  
37 Alabama and who hold a master's degree or doctoral degree in  
38 genetic counseling from an ACGC or ABMGG accredited training  
39 program, or an equivalent program approved by the ACGC or the  
40 ABMGG, appointed by the Governor.

41           (3) One physician appointed by the Medical Association  
42 of the State of Alabama.

43           (4) One physician appointed by the State Board of  
44 Medical Examiners.

45           (5) One physician who specializes in pediatric genetics  
46 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

47           (6) One physician appointed by the Speaker of the House  
48 of Representatives.

49           (c) Board members appointed by the Governor shall serve  
50 for terms of two years and, upon the expiration of a term, may  
51 continue to serve until replaced or reappointed. All other  
52 board members shall serve until they are replaced by their  
53 respective appointing authority.

54           (d) The board shall annually elect from its membership  
55 a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary.

56           (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their



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57 appointments ~~so that diversity of~~ to assure the board  
58 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, ~~race,~~  
59 ~~and geographical areas is reflective of the makeup~~ geographic,  
60 urban, rural, and economic diversity of this state.

61 (f) Unless acting unreasonably or in bad faith, no  
62 member of the board shall be civilly liable for acting within  
63 the scope of his or her duties as a board member.

64 (g) Members of the board shall serve without  
65 compensation but, to the extent funds are available, may  
66 receive the same per diem and travel allowance as state  
67 employees.

68 (h) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), members  
69 of the board may participate in a regular meeting of the board  
70 by means of telephone conference, video conference, or similar  
71 communications equipment by means of which all individuals  
72 participating in the meeting may hear each other at the same  
73 time. Participation by these electronic means shall constitute  
74 presence in person at a meeting for all purposes, including  
75 the establishment of a quorum. Except as specifically provided  
76 otherwise by this section, participation in meetings by  
77 members of the board shall be conducted in compliance with the  
78 Alabama Open Meetings Act. Except for emergency meetings,  
79 notice of board meetings shall be provided in accordance with  
80 the Alabama Open Meetings Act, and any telephone or video  
81 conference or similar communications equipment used by the  
82 members of the board shall also allow members of the public  
83 the opportunity to simultaneously listen to or observe  
84 meetings held pursuant to this subsection.



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85 (2) Members of the board may only participate in a  
86 meeting of the board relating to a disciplinary action in  
87 person."

88 "§34-13A-10

89 There is established in the State Treasury a separate  
90 special revenue trust fund known as the Genetic Counseling  
91 Fund. All receipts collected by the board pursuant to this  
92 chapter shall be deposited into the fund and shall be used  
93 only to implement this chapter. The receipts shall be  
94 disbursed only by warrant of the Comptroller upon the State  
95 Treasury, upon itemized vouchers approved by the executive  
96 director, or the board if no executive director is employed.  
97 The board may make grants, and otherwise arrange with  
98 qualified individuals, institutions, or agencies to develop  
99 and promote genetic counseling programs and continuing  
100 education programs for licensees. No funds may be withdrawn or  
101 expended except as budgeted and allotted according to Sections  
102 41-4-80 to 41-4-96, inclusive, and Sections 41-19-1 to  
103 41-19-12, inclusive, and only in amounts as stipulated in the  
104 general appropriations bill or other appropriations bills."

105 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
106 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
107 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.