

SB221 INTRODUCED



1 A1IP7Q-1

2 By Senator Butler

3 RFD: State Governmental Affairs

4 First Read: 19-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.