

HB127 ENGROSSED



1 HB127
2 J5MDFFF-2
3 By Representative Wilcox
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25
6 PFD: 03-Feb-25



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Board of Hearing Instrument Dealers until October 1, 2029, with certain modifications; to amend Section 34-14-30, Code of Alabama 1975, to require that a board member resides in and be appointed from each congressional district in this state and that any remaining members be appointed from the state at-large.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law, the Sunset Committee recommends the continuance of the Board of Hearing Instrument Dealers until October 1, 2029, with additional recommendation for statutory change as set out in Section 3.

Section 2. The existence and functioning of the Board of Hearing Instrument Dealers, created and functioning pursuant to Sections 34-14-1 to 34-14-34, inclusive, Code of Alabama 1975, is continued until October 1, 2029, and those code sections are expressly preserved.

Section 3. Section 34-14-30, Code of Alabama 1975, is



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29 amended to read as follows:

30 "§34-14-30

31 (a) There is established a Board of Hearing Instrument
32 Dealers which shall administer this chapter.

33 (b) (1) Members of the board shall be citizens and
34 residents of the state and appointed by the Governor. The
35 membership of the board shall be inclusive and reflect the
36 racial, gender, geographic, ~~urban/rural~~ urban, rural, and
37 economic diversity of the state. Commencing on June 1, 2025,
38 as the terms of the members serving on the board expire, the
39 membership of the board shall be appointed so that one member
40 resides in and is appointed from each congressional district
41 in this state with the remaining members being appointed from
42 the state at-large.

43 (2) The board shall consist of eight members as
44 follows: Five licensees, one of whom may be a hearing aid
45 specialist, one physician who specializes in diseases of the
46 ear, one audiologist, and one consumer member. The consumer
47 member shall have the same powers as other board members,
48 except that the consumer member shall have no voting powers in
49 matters of issuing, suspending, or revoking licenses, and
50 neither the consumer member, nor his or her spouse, ~~shall~~ may
51 be a hearing aid specialist or hearing aid dispenser. Each
52 hearing aid specialist or hearing aid dispenser on the board
53 shall have no less than three years of experience and shall
54 hold a valid license as a hearing aid specialist or hearing
55 aid dispenser, as provided under this chapter. No member of
56 the board ~~shall~~ may be from the same business or firm of



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57 another board member, and no member ~~shall~~ may be the spouse or
58 immediate family member of another board member.

59 (c) All members of the board shall be appointed by the
60 Governor from a list of qualified persons nominated by the
61 Alabama Society for Hearing Healthcare Providers. The term of
62 office of each member shall be for four years. Before a
63 member's term expires, the Governor shall appoint a successor
64 to assume his or her duties upon the expiration of his or her
65 predecessor's term. A vacancy in the office of a member shall
66 be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. The members
67 of the board shall annually designate one member to serve as
68 chair, another to serve as vice chair, and such other officers
69 the board deems necessary, including a complaints chair.

70 (d) No member of the board who has served two or more
71 full terms may be reappointed to the board until at least one
72 year after the expiration of his or her most recent full term
73 of office.

74 (e) Members of the board shall receive for each day
75 actually engaged in the duties of the office a per diem amount
76 of twenty-five dollars (\$25), not to exceed the sum of one
77 thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year, and reimbursement for
78 traveling expenses as provided in Article 2 of Chapter 7 of
79 Title 36, and other expenses, the remuneration and
80 reimbursement to be paid from appropriations made for this
81 purpose.

82 (f) The Governor may remove any member for neglect of
83 duty, incompetency, or unprofessional conduct. The board may
84 employ, and at its pleasure discharge, an executive secretary



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85 and such officers and employees as may be necessary, and the
86 board shall fix their compensation."

87 Section 4. The Legislature concurs in the
88 recommendation of the Sunset Committee as provided in Sections
89 1, 2, and 3.

90 Section 5. This act shall become effective on June 1,
91 2025.



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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25
to the House of Representatives
committee on Boards, Agencies and
Commissions

Read for the second time and placed05-Feb-25
on the calendar:
0 amendments

Read for the third time and passed06-Feb-25
as amended
Yeas 103
Nays 0
Abstains 0

John Treadwell
Clerk