

SB198 ENROLLED



1 SB198
2 CXGHYQQ-2
3 By Senator Givhan
4 RFD: Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Safety
5 First Read: 25-Feb-25



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Enrolled, An Act,

Relating to the Alabama National Guard; to add Chapters 2B and 2C to Title 31 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to establish and provide for the Alabama National Guard Legal Services Office, including positions therein; to establish and provide for the Alabama National Guard Legal Assistance Program, including positions therein; and to authorize judge advocates and paralegals to perform notary actions under certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Chapter 2B is added to Title 31 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§31-2B-1.

This chapter establishes and defines the operational procedures of the Alabama National Guard Legal Services Office, including the office's composition, mission, and functions; provides duties and explains policies, objectives, and procedures for the development and maintenance of the office; provides duties for the supervision, training, employment, and administration of personnel; and provides procedures for acquiring and maintaining office legal research resources.

§31-2B-2.

This chapter applies to all judge advocates and services and personnel thereof at all times, including during federal service.



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§31-2B-3.

(a) The Alabama National Guard and State Military Department shall adopt Army Regulation 27-1 and Air Force Instruction 51-304 as controlling when judge advocates are in federal service and when not in federal service in an advisory capacity.

(b) This chapter is supplemental and shall not be construed to abrogate any duties, responsibilities, or liabilities of judge advocates or legal services personnel.

§31-2B-4.

(a) The Legal Services Office shall be a joint office shared by the Alabama Army and Air National Guard. There shall be a state staff judge advocate for the Army National Guard and for the Air National Guard.

(b) Each state staff judge advocate shall do all of the following:

(1) Perform the duties as prescribed by the Adjutant General and state and federal law.

(2) Serve as the primary legal adviser to the Adjutant General regarding the State Military Department and all officers and agencies of the department.

(3) Provide independent legal advice in coordination with the Office of General Counsel and directly to the Director of the Joint Staff, chief of staff of each service, joint staff, and members of the Alabama National Guard, generally.

(4) Provide legal advice in the following areas:

a. Military justice.



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b. Administration and operation of State Military Department.

c. Business, property, and financial operations under the jurisdiction and authority of the State Military Department and Armory Commission.

d. Administration, control, discipline, status, civil relations, and activities of all State Military Department personnel.

(5) Provide legal advice to the Adjutant General, Director of the Joint Staff, chief of staff of each service, and joint staff in all legal matters concerning the State Military Department, including environmental law, labor and civilian personnel law, contract law, and fiscal and tax law.

(6) Develop legal office management policies and procedures to accomplish all legal services within the Alabama National Guard.

(7) Direct the members of the Alabama National Guard Judge Advocate General Corps in the performance of their duties, including leading and managing all aspects of the Legal Service Office.

(8) Exercise technical supervision over the delivery of legal services in the Alabama Army and Air National Guard and all legal services personnel under the authority of the Adjutant General.

(9) Certify that all judge advocates are professionally qualified and maintain the highest levels of ethical and moral behavior and professional proficiency to perform legal duties.

(10) Manage the professional legal training within the



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Alabama National Guard.

(11) Determine the requirements for the Alabama National Guard's acquisition of legal research materials, software, applications, and programs.

(12) Provide legal services to the Alabama National Guard through the Legal Services Office and the Office of General Counsel.

(13) Direct the delivery of Alabama Army and Air National Guard legal services across a broad spectrum of legal disciplines, including military justice, international and operational law, administrative and civil law, contract and fiscal law, claims, and legal assistance.

§31-2B-5.

(a) Under the direction of the Adjutant General and the state staff judge advocates, the General Counsel shall do all of the following:

(1) Advise and support the state staff judge advocates on all judge advocate legal service matters.

(2) Advise the Adjutant General, State Military Department, Governor, chiefs of staff of each service, and Director of the Joint Staff, as necessary.

(3) Serve as Chief Information Officer for the Judge Advocate General Counsel.

(4) Inspect, supervise, and manage judge advocate activities as directed by the state staff judge advocates.

(5) Supervise all Alabama National Guard litigation and appeals.

(6) Supervise and provide advice on all contract and



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113 fiscal issues.

114 (7) Supervise and provide technical guidance regarding
115 military justice and administrative law.

116 (8) Supervise the Office of General Counsel, including
117 employment, professional responsibility, and office management
118 matters.

119 (9) Establish policy and operational guidance for all
120 aspects of the Legal Services Office.

121 (10) Supervise the Deputy General Counsel, associate
122 general counsels, deputy staff judge advocates, judge
123 advocates, all legal services personnel, and others who are
124 members of the Judge Advocate Legal Services Office to assist
125 the Office of General Counsel in supporting the state staff
126 judge advocates.

127 (b) The Office of General Counsel full-time staff shall
128 include a general counsel, deputy general counsel, chief
129 paralegal, and associate general counsels.

130 §31-2B-6.

131 The Deputy General Counsel shall do all of the
132 following:

133 (1) Serve as director for the Legal Services Office,
134 including military justice, legal assistance, administrative
135 law, contract and fiscal law, and any other services as
136 determined and delegated by a state staff judge advocate or
137 the Office of General Counsel.

138 (2) Coordinate and provide support for all legal
139 services throughout the Alabama National Guard and the State
140 Military Department under the direction of the state staff



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judge advocates and the Office of General Counsel.

(3) Coordinate and support the Alabama National Guard Army Soldier Readiness Program.

(4) Coordinate and provide support for all legal services training in the Alabama National Guard.

(5) Coordinate and supervise all Alabama National Guard preventative law publications.

(6) Provide advice and counsel to Alabama National Guard SAPR/IPP Offices.

(7) Compile and publish the Alabama National Guard Legal Services Manual upon approval by the state staff judge advocates.

§31-2B-7.

The military justice associate general counsel shall do all of the following:

(1) Serve as coordinator of all military justice matters under the direction of the state staff judge advocates and as delegated to the Office of General Counsel.

(2) Coordinate and provide support to the Chief of Military Justice and all trial counsels and supporting staff.

(3) Provide and supervise all military justice training throughout the Alabama National Guard.

(4) Compile and publish the Alabama Manual for Court-Martial and any supporting state regulations and manuals with advice and consent of the state staff judge advocates and the Chief of Military Justice.

§31-2B-8.

The contract and fiscal law associate general counsel



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169 shall do all of the following:

170 (1) Serve as coordinator of all contract and fiscal law
171 matters under the direction of the state staff judge advocates
172 and as delegated to the Office of General Counsel.

173 (2) Coordinate and provide support to the military
174 judge advocates assigned to contract and fiscal law sections.

175 (3) Provide and supervise all contract and fiscal law
176 training throughout the Alabama National Guard.

177 (4) Compile and publish the Alabama Manual for Contract
178 and Fiscal Law and any supporting rules and manuals with
179 advice and consent of the state staff judge advocates.

180 §31-2B-9.

181 The administrative and Civil Law Associate General
182 Counsel shall do all of the following:

183 (1) Serve as coordinator of all administrative and
184 civil law matters under the direction of the state staff judge
185 advocates and as delegated to the Office of General Counsel.

186 (2) Coordinate and provide support to the military
187 judge advocates assigned to administrative and civil law
188 sections.

189 (3) Provide and supervise all administrative and civil
190 law training throughout the Alabama National Guard.

191 (4) Compile and publish the Alabama Manual for
192 Administrative and Civil Law and any supporting rules and
193 manuals with advice and consent of the state staff judge
194 advocates.

195 §31-2B-10.

196 The Operational Law Associate General Counsel shall do



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197 all of the following:

198 (1) Serve as coordinator of all operational law matters
199 under the direction of the state staff judge advocate and as
200 delegated to the Office of General Counsel.

201 (2) Coordinate and provide support to military judge
202 advocates assigned to administrative and civil law sections.

203 (3) Provide and supervise all military justice training
204 throughout the Alabama National Guard.

205 (4) Compile and publish the Alabama Manual for
206 Operational Law and any supporting rules and manuals with
207 advice and consent of the state staff judge advocates.

208 §31-2B-11.

209 The Legal Assistance Associate General Counsel shall do
210 all of the following:

211 (1) Serve as coordinator of all legal assistance
212 matters under the direction of the state staff judge advocates
213 and as delegated to the Office of General Counsel.

214 (2) Coordinate and provide support to military judge
215 advocates assigned to legal services sections.

216 (3) Provide and supervise all legal assistance training
217 throughout the Alabama National Guard.

218 (4) Compile and publish the Alabama Manual for Legal
219 Assistance and any supporting rules and manuals with the
220 advice and consent of the state staff judge advocates.

221 §31-2B-12.

222 (a) Command, Wing, and Brigade Judge Advocates shall
223 provide legal services to Major Military Commands, including
224 MACOM, MAJCOM, and Wing in this state through legal offices



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and legal sections headed by judge advocates within each MACOM, MAJCOM, and Wing. Judge advocates shall be members of MACOM, MAJCOM, and Wing Commanders' Staff and are designated as supervisory judge advocates.

(b) A Supervisory Judge Advocate shall be a judge advocate within an office or organization with authority over, or responsibility for, the direction, coordination, evaluation, or assignment of responsibilities and work of subordinate lawyers, paralegals, and other non-lawyer assistants within MACOM, MAJCOM, or Wing.

(c) The supervisory judge advocates shall include the Command Judge Advocate, Staff Judge Advocate, and the Brigade Judge Advocate as determined by the placement.

(d) The Command Judge Advocate, Staff Judge Advocate, and Brigade Judge Advocate shall do all of the following:

(1) Advise the commander regarding legal matters and assist the commander in exercising his or her duties as a part of the commander's personal staff, all under the management and supervision of the respective state staff judge advocate.

(2) Assist the commander in identifying legal problems and render legal advice in support of the commander's decision-making process.

(3) Furnish legal advice, assistance, and support across the broad spectrum of military, state, and federal practice, including administrative law, claims, contract, and fiscal law, international and operational law, and military justice; provided, all legal assistance is reserved to the Legal Services Office unless otherwise determined by a state



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staff judge advocate.

(4) Be responsible for the efficient, effective, and ethical delivery of legal services to his or her commanders and commands.

(5) Create and maintain rating and supervisory chains that comply with applicable Army standards and ensure effective leadership of all legal personnel of the command legal office.

(6) Ensure legal personnel are adequately trained to accomplish the legal mission, including through local training and through attendance at the Judge Advocate Center and School courses, including that all judge advocate attorneys accomplish continuing legal education required by the Alabama State Bar.

(7) Appoint and assign duties of the chief paralegal, trial counsel, and deputy command judge advocate, deputy staff judge advocate, or deputy brigade judge advocate, as appropriate, with consent of the state staff judge advocate.

(8) Maintain written standard office procedures and annex to Operation Order for Command.

(9) Maintain proper written reports regarding investigations, separations, and military justice as directed by the Office of General Counsel and state staff judge advocate.

(10) Publish an office SOP and OPORD Annex for their respective commands.

§31-2B-13.

(a) In accordance with Army Regulation 27-1, all



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paralegals and warrant officers are under the direction of a state staff judge advocate with supervision delegated to each Command Judge Advocate, Staff Judge Advocate, or Brigade Judge Advocate, as appropriate.

(b) Unless directed otherwise by the state staff judge advocate, all paralegals and warrant officers shall perform only legal professional duties as outlined in their respective legal service regulations.

§31-2B-14.

(a) The Alabama National Guard, commanders, and supervisory judge advocates shall provide logistical support for the Legal Services Office, including adequate personnel, facilities, supplies, and equipment necessary to carry out its mission and functions in the most professional, efficient, and effective manner possible.

(b) Minimum logistical support shall include all of the following:

(1) Sufficiently private workspace for attorneys and support staff that ensures freedom from unnecessary distractions and provides for client confidentiality and privacy, including a private consultation room.

(2) Locking file cabinets to ensure the privacy of records.

(3) Computer hardware and software to maintain client records; provided, only authorized personnel may have access.

(4) A sufficient number of attorneys and qualified administrative, paralegal, and clerical support personnel to accomplish workload.



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(5) Computers for each assigned judge advocate, paralegal, and legal assistant; software, peripherals, networking, telecommunication equipment, including nonsecure Internet protocol router network access and, where required, secure Internet protocol router network access. Maintenance and supplies for computer hardware and software, including training for personnel.

(6) Appropriate and private client waiting areas in legal services and assistance offices.

(7) Standard legal office equipment as determined by technological advancements and by the state staff judge advocate or the Office of General Counsel.

(8) Access to digital libraries, including general research material and legal services for specialized topics, including adequate funding and resources for essential access to computer automated legal research capabilities.

(9) Adequate funding for continuing legal education for all assigned and attached attorneys sufficient to satisfy requirements of each attorney's primary jurisdiction of bar membership, including additional specialty or assignment training for attorneys and support staff.

(10) Cellular telephones and similar devices as determined by the state staff judge advocate or Office of General Counsel to support legal mission requirements.

(11) Adequate transportation support.

(c) The management and delivery of legal services in the Alabama National Guard requires the use and support of court computer access to software applications, such as:



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Jagcnet, Adobe, Word Perfect, Alacourt, Alafile, and federal court litigation access.

Section 2. Chapter 2C is added to Title 31 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§31-2C-1.

This chapter provides policies, roles, responsibilities, and procedures for the Alabama National Guard Legal Assistance Program. This chapter shall not be construed to create any substantive or procedural right against this state or the United States, or any agencies or officers thereof, or any other person.

§31-2C-2.

(a) The Legal Assistance Program shall be modeled after Army Regulation 27-3, Air Force Instruction 51-304, and Air National Guard Instruction 51-504. When not in federal service these federal regulations shall be advisory and not controlling and any inconsistencies shall be resolved in favor of state law and rules. This chapter shall be applicable to all judge advocates at all times, even when in federal service. For any conflict between this chapter and federal law or rule during federal service, federal service regulations shall control.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall abrogate any duties, responsibilities, or liabilities of judge advocates or personnel under Alabama National Guard shall incorporate Army Regulation 27-3, Air Force Instruction 51-304, and Air National Guard Instruction 51-504.

§31-2C-3.



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(a) The mission of the Legal Assistance Program is to assist eligible clients with managing their personal legal affairs in a timely and professional manner by doing all of the following:

(1) Meeting clients' needs for information on personal legal matters.

(2) Resolving clients' personal legal problems whenever possible.

(b) The Legal Assistance Program shall be under the direction of the Adjutant General. The mission of the Legal Assistance Program is based on military needs of readiness, morale, discipline, and retention according to the following:

(1) Readiness. Because soldiers, airmen, and emergency-essential Department of Defense civilian employees must be prepared for immediate mobilization and deployment, their personal legal affairs must be in order at all times.

(2) Morale. Fostering high morale of soldiers, airmen, and their families is an important aspect of readiness. High morale is enhanced by providing soldiers, airmen, and their families information, advice, and assistance responsive to their personal legal needs and problems.

(3) Discipline. Personal legal difficulties may cause low morale and disciplinary problems and may adversely affect combat readiness. Prompt legal assistance in resolving these difficulties is an effective preventive law measure.

(4) Quality. Providing legal assistance is part of the Alabama National Guard's ongoing effort to maintain a quality of life that will attract quality people. The Alabama National



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393 Guard must take care of its own if it is to recruit and retain
394 a quality force.

395 (5) Retention. In order to retain service members, it
396 is the mission of the Alabama National Guard legal assistance
397 program to assist service members with legal matters on a no
398 cost basis to promote retention.

399 §31-2C-4.

400 (a) The Alabama Staff Judge Advocate for the Alabama
401 Army and Air National Guard shall do all of the following:

402 (1) Maintain ultimate responsibility for the overall
403 supervision and administration of the Legal Assistance
404 Program.

405 (2) Through the Director of Legal Services within the
406 Office of General Counsel:

407 a. Execute program director responsibilities for the
408 Legal Assistance Program;

409 b. Exercise technical oversight over judge advocates
410 and civilian attorneys serving in the Legal Assistance
411 Program;

412 c. Provide technical guidance over attorneys serving as
413 Alabama National Guard/NGB Special Victims' Counsel; and

414 d. Develop policies and procedures for the Legal
415 Assistance Program's Manual of Legal Assistance.

416 (b) The MACOM Judge Advocate Office shall provide legal
417 assistance if they have a separate legal assistance judge
418 advocate. Otherwise, the Legal Services Office, through the
419 Legal Assistance Program, shall advise and counsel all legal
420 services issues within MACOMs. MACOM judge advocates may



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provide emergency legal assistance, if approved by the
Director of Legal Services.

§31-2C-5.

The Alabama National Guard legal assistance associate
general counsel shall be responsible for legal assistance
services in the Alabama National Guard and State Military
Department, and shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide legal assistance services pursuant to Army
Regulation 27-3, Air Force Instruction 51-304, and Air
National Guard Instruction 51-504, and as may be directed or
limited by the state staff judge advocate.

(2) Formulate and publish an Alabama National Guard
Manual for Legal Assistance, to be updated annually.

(3) Ensure proper planning and coordination for Soldier
Readiness Program legal support.

(4) Secure adequate facilities, equipment, supplies,
and personnel for the provision of legal assistance services.

(5) Coordinate, draft, publish, and execute preventive
legal assistance initiatives and services that meet the needs
of the Alabama National Guard and its respective commands.

(6) Establish, where appropriate, any consistent
limitations to accomplish the mission of the Legal Services
Office.

(7) Maintain up-to-date legal trackers of clients and
services for the Legal Services Office.

§31-2C-6.

Unless inconsistent with superior orders or other
duties or responsibilities, all of the following are



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authorized to provide legal assistance:

(1) Judge advocates and personnel supporting the Legal Services Office under the authority of the Adjutant General and state staff judge advocates.

(2) Judge advocates and personnel supporting the Army and Air National Guard under Army Regulation 27-3, Air Force Instruction 51-304, and Air National Guard Instruction 51-504.

(3) State and Department of Defense civilian attorneys and judge advocates as approved by the state staff judge advocates.

(4) Staff judge advocates and Office of General Counsel interns or externs under the supervision of the state staff judge advocate or Office of General Counsel.

§31-2C-7.

(a) The Legal Services Office along with designated supervisory judge advocates shall ensure that all attorneys and non-lawyer assistants providing legal services develop and maintain the requisite level of competency required by the Alabama State Bar, state rules, and federal regulations that apply to judge advocates.

(b) The legal assistance associate general counsel shall ensure all of the following:

(1) All judge advocates and attorneys under his or her supervision receive continuing legal education in the areas of law, policy, and professional responsibility relevant to legal assistance. Training should take advantage of courses sponsored by state and federal government agencies; national, state, and local bar associations; and the Judge Advocate



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Center and School.

(2) The Legal Services Office periodically conducts training covering the laws affecting legal assistance cases in coordination with local bar associations, legal aid offices, local practitioners, and relevant state and local government agencies.

(3) Paralegal specialists, office intake personnel, and receptionists receive training and instructions on safeguarding the privacy and confidentiality of client information, conflicts of interest, reporting procedures for violations of the standards, and other professional responsibility topics related to legal assistance.

Participation in local legal assistance training shall be encouraged. Supervisory lawyers should encourage and support participation in the Army's Paralegal Degree Program for all paralegal soldiers.

(4) Other attorneys who may be called to perform legal assistance duties receive appropriate training in legal assistance.

§31-2C-8.

Eligible clients of the Legal Assistance Program, subject to the limitations described herein, include all of the following:

(1) Alabama Army and Air National Guard members, employees, retirees, and their dependents. Retired members of the Alabama National Guard are those retirees who are entitled to or are receiving military retirement pay, including individuals on the temporary disability retired list.



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(2) The legal assistance associate general counsel, with the advice and consent of the state staff judge advocates, may limit legal assistance in times of emergencies or to certain categories of cases based on availability of expertise or resources.

(3) Dependents of eligible individuals identified herein. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "dependent" has the same meaning as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1072.

(4) Surviving dependents of eligible individuals as identified herein who would be eligible for legal assistance, if the service member or retired member were alive.

§31-2C-9.

The Adjutant General or a state staff judge advocate may limit or expand the Legal Assistance Program depending on the space, facilities, or personnel available and the nature and scope of services needed.

§31-2C-10.

Preventive law services are an integral part of the Legal Assistance Program as defined in Army Regulation 27-1 and Air Force Instruction 51-304, the purpose of which is to assist and educate Alabama National Guard members, employees, retirees, and dependents about their legal rights, privileges, and responsibilities. The Alabama National Guard Legal Assistance Program shall strive to work with state agencies, local and state bar associations, and community leaders on the most pressing legal issues to best address any issues and to disseminate legal information to assist eligible persons in making sound legal decisions.



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533 §31-2C-11.

534 (a) The Legal Assistance Program shall include a
535 Preventative Law Program that does all of the following:

536 (1) Publishes one or more preventative law publications
537 per quarter and distributes the publications via any medium
538 easily accessible to eligible clients.

539 (2) Participates in command newcomer orientation
540 briefings, professional development programs, general military
541 training, other unit education programs, and family readiness
542 group presentations. Attorneys and paralegals are encouraged
543 to sponsor and participate in lectures, seminars, forums, and
544 meetings that inform soldiers, family members, and retirees
545 about legal problems and issues.

546 (3) Maintains a legal assistance website or social
547 media presence that contains information on the office hours,
548 location, and services available. Legal assistance offices are
549 encouraged to disseminate preventative law materials on these
550 sites. All published material must be reviewed and updated at
551 least quarterly to ensure accuracy.

552 (4) Makes preventive law handouts available in waiting
553 rooms and other appropriate locations.

554 (b) In addition to taking the above measures to educate
555 soldiers and their family members, the Preventative Law
556 Program shall employ the following measures to prevent future
557 legal issues:

558 (1) Identify landlords and other businesses that take
559 unfair advantage of soldiers and family members and coordinate
560 with local installation housing referral offices, local Armed



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Forces Disciplinary Control Boards, and local, state, and federal consumer protection agencies to develop procedures to enforce fair business practices.

(2) Assess whether changes in law or regulation could prevent common legal problems and make regulatory or legislative suggestions to initiate those changes. Recommendations for changes to federal law, regulations, or other policy should be forwarded to the Alabama National Guard Legal Services Office.

§31-2C-12.

(a) The scope of Alabama National Guard legal services is limited to the types of cases, matters, and services as defined and outlined in Army Regulation 27-3, Air Force Instruction 51-304, and Army National Guard Instruction 51-504.

(b) The Alabama National Guard Legal Services Office may limit or expand any services depending on expertise, resources, and personnel.

(c) Legal assistance services are provided at no cost to a client; however, the Alabama National Guard Legal Services Office is not responsible for any costs associated with a client's legal matter, including, but not limited to, court fees, charges, filing fees, discovery fees, application fees, appeal bonds, fines, civilian or private attorney fees, or any other costs.

§31-2C-13.

(a) All judge advocates providing legal assistance must obtain and hold an occupational license from the Alabama State



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Bar, or, with exception and approval of a state staff judge advocate, from another state bar under which the judge advocate is licensed. Further, judge advocates should establish and maintain a liaison with national, state, and local bar organizations. Membership in professional organizations, especially local branches involved in providing legal services pertinent to the military community and attendance at professional meetings and seminars is encouraged.

(b) Upon receipt of necessary approval by a state staff judge advocate, judge advocates and personnel may obtain reimbursement of license fees and any necessary fees associated with continuing legal education or membership in local or state bar associations.

(c) Legal assistance attorneys are encouraged to provide presentations to their civilian counterparts on military legal assistance issues.

(d) The Legal Services Office shall work to incorporate the purposes of the Military Law Committee with coordination between the Alabama State Bar and local bar associations regarding military legal services, referral services, and legal issues within this state.

§31-2C-14.

Nothing in this chapter shall affect the standards of professional conduct required by the United States Army, United States Air Force, National Guard Bureau, or the Alabama State Bar, nor shall it expand any services of the Legal Services Office or personnel, outside of the scope and



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liability protections of the applicable service regulations.
All functions under this chapter and Chapter 2B and all other
activities relating to the Legal Services Office are
governmental functions for defense and security of Alabama
State Military Forces.

§31-2C-15.

(a) Judge advocates and paralegals while performing
duties under Title 10 or Title 32, U.S.C., may perform
notarial acts, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1044a, or if qualified
as a notary public under state law.

(b) Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1044a, judge advocates,
even when not in a duty status, have the general powers of a
notary public in the performance of all notarial acts.

(c) Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1044a(b)(4), Alabama
National Guard paralegals have the general powers of a notary
public in the performance of all notarial acts, even when in a
non-duty status.

(d) Judge advocates and paralegals may use a seal or
stamp citing the authority under 10 U.S.C. § 1044a when
performing notarial acts.

(e) The cost of a state notary public commission, if
required by a state staff judge advocate, may be reimbursed
upon his or her approval.

(f) Civilian employee notaries may perform these
services within the limits of the commission under the rules
for the jurisdiction. No fees may be charged for these notary
services.

(g) All actions of military notaries qualified under 10



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645 U.S.C. § 1044a are valid and enforceable in this state.
646 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
647 1, 2025.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB198
Senate 06-Mar-25
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 20-Mar-25

By: Senator Givhan