

SB67 ENROLLED



1 SB67
2 SLJ9257-3
3 By Senators Jones, Chesteen
4 RFD: Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Safety
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



SB67 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 Relating to veterans affairs; to amend Sections 31-5-2,

4 31-5-3, 31-5-5, 31-5-6, 31-5-7, 31-5-8, 31-5-9, 31-5-10,

5 31-5-13, 31-5A-3, 31-5A-4, 31-5A-5, 31-5A-6, 31-5A-7, 31-5A-8,

6 31-5A-9, and 31-5A-10, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended

7 by Act 2024-442 of the 2024 Regular Session; to require the

8 Governor, rather than the State Board of Veterans Affairs,

9 to appoint the Commissioner of the State Department of

10 Veterans Affairs to serve at the Governor's pleasure;

11 to provide that the board serves in an oversight capacity; and

12 to transfer certain duties from the board to the State

13 Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. Sections 31-5-2, 31-5-3, 31-5-5, 31-5-6,

16 31-5-7, 31-5-8, 31-5-9, 31-5-10, and 31-5-13, Code of Alabama

17 1975, as last amended by Act 2024-442 of the 2024 Regular

18 Session, are amended to read as follows:

19 "§31-5-2

20 The State Board of Veterans Affairs is established to

21 oversee the State Department of Veterans Affairs. The

22 department shall be composed of a commissioner and other

23 officers and employees authorized to be appointed under this

24 chapter who meet the qualifications prescribed by the ~~board~~

25 commissioner. "

26 "§31-5-3

27 (a) (1) The board shall be composed of the Governor, as

28 chair, and representatives, to serve for a term of four years



SB67 Enrolled

29 from the date of their respective appointments, who shall be
30 selected from the memberships of the Alabama Department of the
31 American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled
32 American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS,
33 the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American
34 Ex-Prisoners of War, Incorporated, the Alabama Alliance of the
35 Military Officers Association of America, Incorporated, and
36 the Marine Corps League.

37 (2) The nomination of the representatives shall be made
38 by the executive committees or similar governing bodies of the
39 respective organizations. There shall be one representative
40 from each of the organizations for the first 7,500 resident
41 members, or fraction thereof, and one additional
42 representative from each organization for each additional
43 7,500 resident members, or fraction thereof. The total
44 memberships of the respective organizations shall be
45 determined on July 1 of the year in which the representatives
46 shall be designated from the state enrollment of each
47 organization as duly verified for correctness by the adjutant
48 or a similar officer of the organization. Notwithstanding the
49 foregoing, the executive committees or similar governing
50 bodies of the organizations shall each nominate to the
51 Governor three veterans who are members of the organizations
52 for each place on the board to which the organizations are
53 entitled to have a nominee. The nominations shall also
54 include, in representative proportions, veterans of every war
55 which are included in the membership of the organizations.

56 (3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2), if (i) a



SB67 Enrolled

57 vacancy occurs before the end of a term, (ii) an organization
58 fails to nominate to the Governor a list of nominees within 90
59 days after a term ends, or (iii) the membership of any
60 organization decreases below 500 members, the Governor may
61 appoint a veteran of his or her choosing in a manner that
62 conforms with subdivision (4).

63 ~~(3)~~(4) Appointments to the board shall be
64 representative of the entirety of the state's veteran
65 community. Board members shall include veterans from various
66 branches of the Armed Forces of the United States and service
67 eras (including active-duty service members, so long as
68 permitted under federal law) and consist of both members and
69 nonmembers of veteran service organizations. Board members
70 should also represent entities that provide meaningful
71 services to veterans and their families. The appointing
72 authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure that
73 the membership of the board is inclusive and reflects the
74 racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic
75 diversity of the ~~state~~ state's veteran community.

76 (5) A member may not serve more than two consecutive
77 terms.

78 (6) Within 60 days of the act adding this amendatory
79 language, an organization may nominate a new slate of names
80 from which the Governor shall appoint a new member to fill the
81 remainder of the respective term.

82 (b) The board, ~~in conference with the commissioner,~~
83 ~~shall adopt and amend policies and rules as may be necessary~~
84 ~~to carry out this chapter~~ shall serve in an oversight capacity



SB67 Enrolled

85 and shall do all of the following:

86 (1) Advise the commissioner on veterans' matters that
87 are within the scope of the authority of the department.

88 (2) Develop policy recommendations for the state as it
89 relates to veterans and veterans' affairs.

90 (3) Recommend initiatives to assist the well-being of
91 veterans and veterans' families.

92 (4) Assist the commissioner and department as needed
93 and as otherwise provided in this chapter.

94 ~~(c) The board, subject to Section 31-5-6, shall adopt~~
95 ~~rules governing the manner of performance of all functions and~~
96 ~~duties of the department and the various officers and~~
97 ~~employees, including the selection and appointment of all~~
98 ~~commissioners and assistant commissioners, district managers,~~
99 ~~and veteran service officers. The rules shall have the force~~
100 ~~and effect of law and prima facie evidence thereof may be~~
101 ~~given in all courts and proceedings by the production of what~~
102 ~~purports to be an official printed copy of the regulations,~~
103 ~~alterations, repeal, or amendment.~~

104 ~~(d) The board may establish and operate through the~~
105 ~~department state veterans cemeteries and may apply to the~~
106 ~~government of the United States, or any subdivision, agency,~~
107 ~~or instrumentality thereof, for funds for the purpose of~~
108 ~~establishing, operating, and maintaining the cemeteries. The~~
109 ~~department may enter into agreements with any subdivision of~~
110 ~~the state for assistance in operating the cemeteries. The~~
111 ~~department shall own the land on which the cemeteries are~~
112 ~~located. The department may accept federal grant funds,~~



SB67 Enrolled

113 ~~funding from state subdivisions, donations from private~~
114 ~~sources, and federal plot allowance payments. All of these~~
115 ~~funds shall be deposited into the Veterans Assistance Fund and~~
116 ~~may be used only for the establishment, operation, and~~
117 ~~maintenance of veterans cemeteries. The department may accept~~
118 ~~suitable cemetery land, in accordance with federal veterans~~
119 ~~cemetery grant guidelines, from the federal government, state~~
120 ~~government, state subdivisions, private sources, and any other~~
121 ~~source wishing to transfer land for use as a veterans~~
122 ~~cemetery. No funds used for these projects may be from the~~
123 ~~Education Trust Fund. The commissioner may execute deeds and~~
124 ~~other instruments of conveyance for the department. Any deed~~
125 ~~of cemetery property to the department prior to August 1,~~
126 ~~2012, is ratified and confirmed.~~

127 ~~(e)~~ (c) The board shall hold meetings at times and
128 locations to be determined by rules of the ~~board~~ department or
129 as designated by the chair.

130 ~~(f)~~ (d) The presence of a majority of the members at any
131 regular or special meeting of the board shall constitute a
132 quorum for the transaction of all business.

133 ~~(g)~~ (e) Members of the board shall be entitled to a per
134 diem, to be fixed by the ~~board~~ commissioner, and their
135 traveling and other necessary expenses actually incurred while
136 attending meetings of the board or on the business of the
137 department."

138 "§31-5-5

139 (a) (1) The department shall adopt rules governing the
140 manner of performance of all functions and duties of the



SB67 Enrolled

141 department and the various officers and employees, including
142 the selection and appointment of all assistant commissioners,
143 district managers, and veteran service officers.

144 (2) The department may adopt other rules as necessary
145 to implement this chapter.

146 (3) On the effective date of this act, all rules
147 previously adopted by the board shall be considered rules of
148 the department until such time the department amends or
149 repeals the rules.

150 (b) The department, in consultation with the board, shall
151 establish and operate state veterans cemeteries and may apply
152 to the government of the United States, or any subdivision,
153 agency, or instrumentality thereof, for funds for the purpose
154 of establishing, operating, and maintaining the cemeteries.
155 The department may enter into agreements with any subdivision
156 of the state for assistance in operating the cemeteries. The
157 department shall own the land on which the cemeteries are
158 located. The department may accept federal grant funds,
159 funding from state subdivisions, donations from private
160 sources, and federal plot allowance payments. All of these
161 funds shall be deposited into the Veterans Assistance Fund and
162 may be used only for the establishment, operation, and
163 maintenance of veterans cemeteries. The department may accept
164 suitable cemetery land, in accordance with federal veterans
165 cemetery grant guidelines, from the federal government, state
166 government, state subdivisions, private sources, and any other
167 source wishing to transfer land for use as a veterans
168 cemetery. No funds used for these projects may be from the



SB67 Enrolled

169 Education Trust Fund. The commissioner may execute deeds and
170 other instruments of conveyance for the department. Any deed
171 of cemetery property to the department prior to August 1,
172 2012, is ratified and confirmed.

173 (c) The department, through the commissioner,~~with the~~
174 ~~approval of~~ and in consultation with the board, may contract
175 with any organization of veterans which, for a period of five
176 years next preceding the date of the contract, has maintained
177 an established committee or agency rendering services to
178 veterans, similar to the services referred to in Section
179 31-5-4, to perform the services for veterans and to process
180 any claims or matters of veterans who apply to the department
181 for assistance when the veterans have executed a power of
182 attorney to the veterans' organization. The department,
183 through the contract, shall compensate the veterans'
184 organizations on the basis of service rendered, which
185 compensation shall be paid from sums appropriated to the
186 department. No contract shall be made unless the ~~board~~
187 commissioner determines, owing to the confidential
188 relationships involved and the necessity of operating through
189 agencies which the veterans involved will feel to be
190 sympathetic towards their problems, that the services cannot
191 satisfactorily be rendered other than through the agency of
192 the veterans' organization and that the best interests of the
193 veterans involved will be served if the contract is made. "

194 "§31-5-6

195 (a) The ~~board~~ Governor shall appoint a commissioner to
196 ~~serve for a term of four years subject to removal by the board~~



SB67 Enrolled

197 ~~for cause~~ at the Governor's pleasure. The commissioner shall
198 be appointed on the basis of education, ability, and
199 experience in handling veterans' affairs, and without regard
200 to political affiliations. The commissioner shall be a
201 resident of this state, shall be a veteran who served on
202 active duty for a period of 60 days or more in the Armed
203 Forces of the United States and shall have been honorably
204 discharged. The commissioner's salary shall be set by Governor
205 and shall not be subject to Section 36-6-6.

206 (b) The commissioner shall be the executive and
207 administrative officer of the department, ~~subject to the~~
208 ~~authority of the board,~~ and may issue administrative orders
209 and directives to all officials and employees in the
210 department.

211 (c) The department, acting through the commissioner,
212 shall be the designated agency of this state to represent the
213 state and its veterans before the United States Department of
214 Veterans Affairs or any other agency dealing with the
215 interests of veterans.

216 (d) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of~~ in
217 consultation with the board, may enter into reciprocal
218 agreements with other states to render services in this state
219 to veterans who are nonresidents.

220 (e) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~
221 shall appoint all assistant commissioners, district managers,
222 and veteran service officers as provided in this chapter, fix
223 salaries, and establish minimum standards of service. This
224 power shall be without regard to any limitation established by

SB67 Enrolled



225 law, unless any law passed hereafter shall refer specifically
226 to a particular officer or employee of the department.

227 (f) The ~~comissioner~~commissioner shall appoint all
228 personnel in the department as authorized or may be authorized
229 in the future under the state Merit System and approved by the
230 State Personnel Board.

231 (g) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~
232 may engage in activities designed to educate, recognize, and
233 promote the mission of the board to veterans, the public,
234 potential applicants, and other public agencies and, in doing
235 so, may incur marketing expenditures for educational,
236 informational, and promotional items to be used to further its
237 purposes ~~as determined by the board."~~

238 "§31-5-7

239 (a) The commissioner shall submit an annual budget to
240 the board ~~for its approval~~ of all funds appropriated by the
241 Legislature to the department for the specific purposes for
242 which they are appropriated and also a budget of any federal
243 funds that may be allotted to the state by the federal
244 government for the purposes of the department according to the
245 regulations of the federal authorities. The commissioner shall
246 publish annually a full report of the operations and
247 administration of the department, ~~together with~~
248 ~~recommendations and suggestions,~~ and submit the report to the
249 board.

250 (b) The commissioner shall do all of the following:

251 (1) Prepare detailed plans for, and fully develop, a
252 comprehensive statewide veterans assistance program.



SB67 Enrolled

253 (2) Cooperate with all other heads of the state
254 departments in coordinating the plans and programs of state
255 agencies that may properly be utilized in the administration
256 of various aspects of the ~~problems of~~ challenges faced by
257 veterans and dependents of veterans, ~~such as the office of the~~
258 ~~State Adjutant General, the State Department of Education, the~~
259 ~~State Department of Human Resources, the state Department of~~
260 ~~Workforce, and any other state agencies furnishing services to~~
261 ~~veterans.~~

262 (3) Provide a central contact between federal agencies
263 dealing with the ~~problems of veterans, to include the United~~
264 ~~States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service~~
265 ~~System, the Social Security Administration, the Department of~~
266 ~~Defense, and other federal agencies and state agencies that~~
267 ~~may administer~~ administration of veterans' services and
268 benefits.

269 (4) Maintain central case records of all veterans
270 seeking services or benefits to create a clearinghouse of
271 information and facilitate the interchange of information and
272 case histories among state administrative agencies and the
273 federal agencies.

274 (5) Become acquainted, and acquaint department
275 associates and employees, with the federal, state, and local
276 laws enacted for the benefit of members of the armed forces,
277 veterans, and their families and dependents.

278 (6) Collect data and information about available
279 facilities and services and cooperate with information or
280 service agencies throughout the state to inform members of the



SB67 Enrolled

281 armed forces, veterans, their families and dependents, and
282 military and civil authorities regarding the existence or
283 availability of all of the following:

284 a. Educational training and retraining facilities.

285 b. Health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing
286 services and facilities.

287 c. Employment and reemployment services.

288 d. Provisions of federal, state, and local laws
289 affording rights, privileges, and benefits to members of the
290 armed forces, veterans, and their families and dependents.

291 e. Other matters of similar, relative, or appropriate
292 natures.

293 (7) Assist all resident veterans and their relatives,
294 beneficiaries, and dependents in receiving from the United
295 States and this state all compensation, pensions,
296 hospitalization, insurance, education, employment, loan
297 guarantees, or any other aid or benefit to which they may be
298 or may become entitled under existing laws of the United
299 States or of this state ~~and perform other related duties~~
300 ~~assigned by the board.~~

301 (8) Cooperate and negotiate with the federal government
302 and all national, state, and local governmental or private
303 agencies to secure additional services or benefits for
304 veterans, their families, and their dependents who are
305 residents of this state."

306 "§31-5-8

307 The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~ may
308 appoint additional assistant commissioners to serve as



SB67 Enrolled

309 employees in the department, subject to the rules of the ~~board~~
310 department. Assistant commissioners shall be appointed on the
311 basis of education, ability, and experience in handling
312 veterans' affairs, and without regard to political
313 affiliations. The appointees shall be residents of this state,
314 shall be veterans who served on active duty for a period of 60
315 days or more in the Armed Forces of the United States, and
316 shall have been honorably discharged. "

317 "§31-5-9

318 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the
319 commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~ shall appoint a
320 veteran service officer for each county in the state. Each
321 veteran service officer shall be an employee of the department
322 and subject to the rules of the ~~board~~ department. The veteran
323 service officer shall be a resident of this state, a qualified
324 elector therein, shall be a veteran who served on active duty
325 for a period of 60 days or more in the Armed Forces of the
326 United States, and shall have been honorably discharged. In
327 making appointments, consideration shall be given to whether
328 the applicants are residents of the county. The commissioner
329 ~~and board~~ shall economize as far as possible in the
330 administration of this section.

331 (b) (1) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the~~
332 ~~board,~~ shall determine whether there is a need for a veteran
333 service officer in any particular county. In making this
334 determination, the commissioner ~~and the board~~ shall consider
335 the total population of the county, the number of men and
336 women inducted into the armed services from the county, the



SB67 Enrolled

337 number of veterans present in the county, and special
338 circumstances and facts involving the concentration of
339 industries or other problems that may increase or decrease the
340 number of veterans in certain localities.

341 (2) Where the circumstances do not justify establishing
342 a separate office in each county, the commissioner, ~~with the~~
343 ~~approval of the board,~~ shall establish service areas in the
344 state containing one or more counties and shall establish a
345 service office for each service area in a location most
346 advantageous to the veterans within each area.

347 (c) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~
348 shall establish districts within the state containing one or
349 more counties or service areas, and shall appoint district
350 managers to manage or assist veteran service officers.
351 District managers appointed under this section shall be
352 selected in the same manner and possess the same
353 qualifications as veteran service officers."

354 "§31-5-10

355 (a) Each veteran service officer and district manager
356 shall perform the duties prescribed by policies, rules, and
357 instructions adopted by the ~~board~~ department and shall be
358 administratively responsible to the commissioner.

359 (b) Each veteran service officer and district manager
360 shall do all of the following:

361 (1) Cooperate with and assist local veteran service
362 organizations in developing assistance programs for veterans.

363 (2) Furnish information and data to the commissioner
364 relative to various aspects of the issues of veterans and



SB67 Enrolled

365 dependents of veterans.

366 (3) Provide an information and referral service to
367 veterans seeking aid and assistance in connection with matters
368 pertaining to employment and reemployment, educational and
369 vocational training, health, medical, rehabilitation, and
370 housing services and facilities, emergency financial
371 assistance, and other matters as appropriate.

372 (4) Cooperate with all national, state, and local
373 governmental and private agencies offering services or any
374 benefits to veterans and their families and dependents.

375 (5) Assist all resident veterans and their relatives,
376 beneficiaries, and dependents in receiving from the United
377 States and this state all compensation, pension,
378 hospitalization, insurance, education, employment, loan
379 guarantees, or other aid or benefit to which they may be
380 entitled under existing federal law or laws of this state, or
381 which may be created, and perform all other related duties
382 assigned by the ~~board~~ commissioner.

383 (6) Seek out and advise veterans of their rights and
384 benefits under federal and state laws, encourage the use of
385 educational opportunities, including trade and vocational
386 training, and offer counsel to widows, orphans, and
387 beneficiaries in order to secure the fullest extent of
388 available benefits."

389 "§31-5-13

390 The department and the commissioner shall maintain
391 offices in the capital city of the state. The commissioner,
392 ~~under authority of the board,~~ in addition to any service



SB67 Enrolled

393 office, if deemed necessary, may set up and maintain a service
394 office staffed by an assistant commissioner, veteran service
395 officer, or district manager, with sufficient clerical
396 assistance. "

397 Section 2. Sections 31-5A-3, 31-5A-4, 31-5A-5, 31-5A-6,
398 31-5A-7, 31-5A-8, 31-5A-9, and 31-5A-10, Code of Alabama 1975,
399 as last amended by Act 2024-442 of the 2024 Regular Session,
400 are amended to read as follows:

401 "§31-5A-3

402 The department is the sole agency authorized to receive
403 federal aid from the United States Department of Veterans
404 Affairs or any other agency of the United States government
405 authorized to pay federal aid to states for state homes under
406 38 U.S.C. §§ 1741 and 1742, as amended, and from any other
407 federal law or act of Congress providing for the payment of
408 funds to states for the care of or support of disabled
409 veterans in state homes. The department may receive from any
410 source gifts, contributions, bequests, and individual
411 reimbursements, the receipt of which does not exclude any
412 other source of revenue. All funds received by the department
413 shall be deposited in the State Treasury in the Alabama
414 Veterans Home Trust Fund as established in Section 31-5A-7,
415 and the funds shall be expended as authorized by the ~~board~~
416 commissioner. "

417 "§31-5A-4

418 The department shall contract with a non-governmental
419 entity to operate state veterans homes for the care and
420 support of elderly or disabled veterans in this state.



SB67 Enrolled

421 Contracts for the procurement of services required to manage,
422 administer, and operate a state veterans home shall be awarded
423 on a competitive basis through the solicitation of proposals.
424 The contract may be awarded to the vendor whose proposal is
425 most advantageous to the state, taking into consideration cost
426 factors, program suitability factors, management plan,
427 excellence of program design, key personnel, corporate or
428 company resources, financial condition of the vendor,
429 corporate experience and past performance, and any other
430 requirements deemed necessary by the ~~board~~ department and
431 expressed in its solicitation for proposals. Any contract
432 awarded under this section shall be for a period not to exceed
433 five years. The ~~board~~ department is not required to select the
434 vendor offering the lowest cost proposal but shall select the
435 vendor who, in the ~~board's~~ department's discretion, offers the
436 proposal most advantageous to this state. The award of
437 contracts described in this section are exempt from the
438 requirements of Chapter 16 and Chapter 4 of Title 41. "

439 "§31-5A-5

440 The commissioner, ~~subject to the approval of the board,~~
441 shall appoint an executive director for oversight and
442 coordination of all state veterans homes and shall also
443 appoint an on-site director for each state veterans home. The
444 executive director and on-site director positions created
445 pursuant to this section shall be exempt status, and shall be
446 subject to guidelines established by the ~~board~~ department.
447 Each director shall be appointed on the basis of education,
448 ability, and experience in the administration of medical



SB67 Enrolled

449 facilities or nursing homes, without regard to political
450 affiliations. Each director shall perform his or her duties in
451 accordance with the rules, guidelines, and general policies
452 established by the ~~board~~ department and as provided in this
453 chapter. "

454 "§31-5A-6

455 ~~The board, in conference with the commissioner, in~~
456 consultation with the board, shall do all of the following:

457 (1) Provide for the operation of state veterans homes
458 for the care of and support of elderly and disabled veterans
459 in this state as prescribed in this chapter.

460 (2) Adopt rules for the creation and operation of any
461 state veterans home.

462 (3) Apply for and accept gifts, grants, and other
463 contributions from the federal government or from any other
464 governmental unit.

465 (4) Use funds received from the federal government or
466 from any other governmental unit for the purposes authorized
467 and directed by the federal government or other governmental
468 unit in making the funds available.

469 (5) Accept gifts, grants, donations, and contributions
470 of real estate, both vacant and improved, facilities,
471 services, or other property from individuals, firms,
472 corporations, organizations, and associations, and from county
473 and municipal corporations and their subdivisions, plus any
474 other sources of revenue for any state veterans homes. All
475 expenditures from the trust fund shall be made upon warrants
476 issued by the state Comptroller drawn on account held by the



SB67 Enrolled

477 State Treasury based upon claims approved by the ~~board~~
478 commissioner."

479 "§31-5A-7

480 (a) A trust fund in the State Treasury is created for
481 the benefit of the State Department of Veterans Affairs, to be
482 known as the Alabama Veterans Home Trust Fund.

483 (b) The trust fund shall consist of all funds received
484 by the board or the department from the United States, any
485 federal agency or institution, gifts, contributions, bequests,
486 any individual reimbursements, and any other source, for the
487 care or support of veterans, discharged other than under
488 dishonorable conditions, who have been admitted and cared for
489 at a state veterans home.

490 (c) Nothing contained in this section prohibits the
491 establishment and utilization of special agency accounts by
492 the department and its constituent institutions, ~~as may be~~
493 ~~approved by the board,~~ for receipt and disbursement of the
494 personal funds of state veterans home residents and members or
495 for receipt and disbursement of charitable contributions and
496 donations for use by and for the benefit of residents and
497 members.

498 (d) The trust fund created pursuant to this section
499 shall be used by the department to pay for the care of
500 veterans, discharged other than under dishonorable conditions,
501 in a state veterans home and to pay the general operating
502 expenses of a state veterans home, including the payment of
503 salaries and wages of officials and employees. Funds in the
504 trust fund may be used to remodel, repair, construct, build



SB67 Enrolled

505 additions, modernize, or add improvements of domiciliary or
506 hospital buildings necessary for the care of veterans, plus
507 architectural plans, specifications, or other pertinent costs
508 as approved by appropriate state agencies. All funds
509 deposited, plus income earned on investment or reinvestment,
510 shall be credited to the trust fund created pursuant to this
511 section. Any money remaining in the fund at the end of each
512 fiscal year shall remain on deposit in the State Treasury to
513 the credit of the Alabama Veterans Home Trust Fund. No funds
514 shall be withdrawn or expended for any purpose unless the
515 funds have been allotted and budgeted in accordance with
516 Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, and only in the amounts
517 and for the purposes provided by the Legislature in the
518 General Appropriation Act."

519 "§31-5A-8

520 (a) Admissions to and discharges from any state
521 veterans home shall be in accordance with the policies and
522 procedures established by the ~~board~~ department at the time an
523 application for admission or for discharge is submitted.

524 (b) The ~~board~~ department may admit and discharge
525 veterans to any state veterans home who qualify for care and
526 treatment under 38 U.S.C. §§ 1710 and 1741, and may adopt
527 rules consistent with accepted medical considerations to carry
528 out this function."

529 "§31-5A-9

530 (a) The ~~board~~ department shall report annually to the
531 Governor the activities of the department regarding the
532 operation of the state veterans homes.



SB67 Enrolled

533 (b) The annual report shall contain an accounting of
534 all monies received and expended, statistics on veterans who
535 resided in the homes during the year, recommendations to the
536 Governor and the Legislature, and other matters deemed
537 pertinent by the ~~board~~ department.

538 (c) The commissioner, ~~with the approval of the board,~~
539 shall compile an annual budget request, as necessary, listing
540 needs for state funding for anticipated costs of veterans
541 homes. The budget request shall be submitted to the Department
542 of Finance in conjunction with the State Department of
543 Veterans Affairs annual budget requests."

544 "§31-5A-10

545 Each resident of any state veterans home shall pay
546 directly to the contracted service operator of the home the
547 cost of maintaining his or her residence at the home. The cost
548 shall be determined by ~~the board in conference with~~ the
549 commissioner. The cost of the care shall be paid by the 10th
550 day of each month. "

551 Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately.



SB67 Enrolled

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB67

Senate 18-Feb-25

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 06-Mar-25

By: Senator Jones