

**SB70 ENROLLED**



1 SB70

2 WK2R555-2

3 By Senators Jones, Allen, Bell, Kitchens, Elliott, Price,

4 Butler, Sessions, Williams, Stewart, Roberts, Hatcher, Kelley,

5 Stutts, Smitherman, Beasley

6 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs

7 First Read: 04-Feb-25



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 To establish the Alabama Veterans Resource Center Act;  
5 to create and designate the Alabama Veterans Resource Center  
6 as a public corporation; to provide for the membership of a  
7 board of directors for the center; to provide for the duties  
8 and powers of the board in managing the center; and to  
9 authorize the center to enter into public-private  
10 partnerships.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. This act shall be known and cited as the  
13 Alabama Veterans Resource Center Act.

14 Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of  
15 the following:

16 (1) Alabama has the highest per capita veteran  
17 population in the United States.

18 (2) Veterans face unique challenges when moving from  
19 military service to civilian life including, but not limited  
20 to, accessing benefits, finding employment, and addressing  
21 mental health needs.

22 (3) A comprehensive, coordinated system of support is  
23 essential to veterans and their families.

24 (4) Public-private partnerships can leverage resources  
25 and expertise to effectively serve veterans.

26 Section 3. (a) The Governor, the Speaker of the House  
27 of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the  
28 Senate shall present to the Secretary of State an application,



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29 signed by each of them, for the formation of the Alabama  
30 Veterans Resource Center as a public corporation, having a  
31 legal existence separate and apart from the state and any  
32 county, municipality, or political subdivision, which shall  
33 set forth all of the following:

34 (1) The name, official designation, and official office  
35 location of each of the applicants, together with a certified  
36 copy of the commission evidencing each applicant's right to  
37 office.

38 (2) The date on which each applicant was sworn into  
39 office and the term of office of each applicant.

40 (3) The name of the proposed public corporation, which  
41 shall be the Alabama Veterans Resource Center.

42 (4) The location of the principal office of the  
43 proposed corporation.

44 (5) Any other matter relating to the corporation that  
45 the applicants may choose to insert and that is not  
46 inconsistent with this act or state law.

47 (b) The application shall be subscribed and sworn to by  
48 each applicant before an officer authorized by the laws of the  
49 state to take acknowledgments to deeds. The Secretary of State  
50 shall examine the application, and, if he or she finds that  
51 the application substantially complies with the requirements  
52 of this section, the application shall be filed and recorded  
53 in an appropriate book of records in the office of the  
54 Secretary of State.

55 (c) When the application has been made, filed, and  
56 recorded as provided in subsection (b), the applicants shall



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57 constitute a public corporation under the name stated in the  
58 application, and the Secretary of State shall make and issue  
59 to the applicants a certificate of incorporation pursuant to  
60 this act, under the Great Seal of the State, and shall record  
61 the certificate with the application. There shall be no fees  
62 paid to the Secretary of State in connection with the  
63 corporation.

64 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
65 contrary, the corporation incorporated pursuant to this  
66 section shall not be deemed to be a part of the state for any  
67 purpose but shall be treated as a public corporation and body  
68 politic separate and apart from the state.

69 Section 4. (a) The center shall be under the management  
70 and control of a board of directors, and all power necessary  
71 or appropriate for the management and control of the center  
72 shall be vested solely in that board.

73 (b) The board shall have all of the following members:

74 (1) Three members appointed by the Governor, one of  
75 whom shall be a female veteran.

76 (2) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
77 Representatives.

78 (3) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in  
79 his or her role as Chair of the Alabama Military Stability  
80 Commission.

81 (4) One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
82 of the Senate.

83 (5) The Commissioner of the State Department of  
84 Veterans Affairs, who shall serve as an ex officio member and



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85 vice chair of the board.

86 (6) The Commissioner of the Department of Mental  
87 Health, who shall serve as an ex officio member.

88 (7) The Secretary of the Alabama Department of  
89 Workforce, who shall serve as an ex officio member and chair  
90 of the board.

91 (8) The Minority Leader of the House of  
92 Representatives, or his or her designee.

93 (9) The Minority Leader of the Senate, or his or her  
94 designee.

95 (c) All board members are voting members of the board  
96 and shall be considered in determining whether a quorum is  
97 present.

98 (d) (1) Each ex officio member may designate an  
99 individual to serve in his or her place at any meeting of the  
100 board or may designate an individual to serve in his or her  
101 place at all meetings of the board until the expiration of his  
102 or her term. An ex officio member may withdraw his or her  
103 designation at any time.

104 (2) A designee shall be counted for purposes of both  
105 establishing a quorum and voting.

106 (3) An ex officio member shall continue to serve on the  
107 board as long as he or she holds the position that authorizes  
108 his or her service on the board.

109 (e) In making appointments, the appointing authorities  
110 shall coordinate their appointments to assure the board  
111 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender,  
112 geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.



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113 (f) (1) Each appointed member shall serve a term of two  
114 years following his or her date of appointment.

115 (2) Each appointed member shall continue to serve until  
116 he or she is reappointed or a successor is appointed to his or  
117 her place on the board.

118 (3) An appointed member may only serve a maximum of two  
119 consecutive terms of office and may be reappointed after not  
120 serving for a period of at least two years.

121 (4) An appointed member may be removed by his or her  
122 appointing authority at any time and for any reason. Upon  
123 removal, the respective appointing authority shall appoint a  
124 successor to serve for the unexpired term.

125 (5) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy, for any  
126 reason, shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and  
127 may be reappointed to serve an additional term.

128 (g) No board member shall receive compensation because  
129 of his or her service as a member. Each member may be  
130 reimbursed for actual and reasonable travel expenses incurred  
131 in the performance of his or her duties as a member.

132 (h) A majority of the board members shall constitute a  
133 quorum for the transaction of business by the board, and  
134 decisions shall be made on the basis of a majority of the  
135 quorum then present and voting. No vacancy in the membership  
136 of the board or the voluntary disqualification or abstention  
137 of any member shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise  
138 all of the powers and duties of the board.

139 (i) Members of the board may participate in meetings of  
140 the board in person, by means of telephone conference, video



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141 conference, or other similar communications equipment, so that  
142 all individuals participating in the meeting may hear each  
143 other at the same time. Participation by any such means shall  
144 constitute presence in person at a meeting for all purposes,  
145 including for purposes of establishing a quorum.

146 (j) The board may appoint other officers to perform  
147 duties not inconsistent with this act or applicable law, as  
148 the board deems necessary or appropriate.

149 (k) In addition to regular meetings of the board, as  
150 may be provided by law or bylaws adopted by the board, special  
151 meetings of the board may be called by the chair acting alone  
152 or by any three other board members acting in concert, in each  
153 case upon notice to each board member given in person, by  
154 email, by registered letter, or by other means. Notice to each  
155 board member may be waived upon the unanimous written consent  
156 of all board members, either before or after the meeting with  
157 respect to which the notice would otherwise be required.

158 Section 5. (a) The board shall have all of the powers  
159 necessary to carry out and effectuate the purposes of this  
160 act. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the  
161 board shall have and exercise all of the following powers:

162 (1) Provide comprehensive support services to veterans  
163 and their families residing in this state including, but not  
164 limited to, all of the following:

165 a. Assistance with accessing federal and state  
166 benefits.

167 b. Career counseling and job placement services.

168 c. Mental health and wellness programs.



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169 d. Education and training opportunities.

170 e. Support for military spouses, dependents, and  
171 families.

172 (2) Develop, monitor, implement, and update as  
173 necessary the strategic plan and strategies for the center.

174 (3) Oversee the operations and finances of the center.

175 (4) Employ an executive director or other employees, or  
176 both, to manage the day-to-day operations of the center.

177 (5) Establish committees as necessary.

178 (6) Develop and implement a hub and spoke model for the  
179 center, with a central office providing core services and a  
180 network of regional offices offering localized support and  
181 access points through a public private-partnership. The center  
182 may also utilize an online portal and other physical  
183 structures or technology to conduct its operations.

184 (7) Adopt, alter, and repeal bylaws as necessary for  
185 the regulation and conduct of the affairs and business of the  
186 center, and for the implementation of this act.

187 (8) Make and enter into contracts, leases, and  
188 agreements and take other actions as the board determines  
189 necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this act  
190 and the center and exercise any power necessary for the  
191 accomplishment of the purposes of the center or incidental to  
192 the powers expressly provided by this act.

193 (9) Appoint, employ, and contract with employees,  
194 agents, advisors, consultants, and service providers  
195 including, but not limited to, attorneys, accountants,  
196 financial experts, and other advisors, consultants, and agents





197 as the board determines necessary or desirable to accomplish  
198 any purpose of the center or incidental to the powers  
199 expressly provided by this act, and to fix the compensation of  
200 those individuals.

201 (10) Manage, invest, and expend funds at its disposal.

202 (11) Grant monies and things of value in aid of or to,  
203 any individual, firm, corporation, or other business entity,  
204 public or private, as the board determines necessary or  
205 desirable to accomplish any purpose of the center or  
206 incidental to the powers expressly provided by this act.

207 (12) Take any action necessary to exercise its rights  
208 or fulfill its obligations relevant to the center under state  
209 law.

210 (13) All other powers necessary to carry out and  
211 effectuate the purposes of this act. These powers shall be  
212 construed broadly, so that the failure to state a power of the  
213 board shall not be considered a limitation upon the board, as  
214 long as the board determines the power is necessary to allow  
215 the board to fulfill the purpose of the center, as provided by  
216 this act.

217 (b) The board may make, enter into, and execute  
218 contracts, agreements, and other instruments with, accept  
219 appropriations, loans, gifts, aid, and grants from, and  
220 cooperate with, any other individual or entity including, but  
221 not limited to, all of the following:

222 (1) The United States of America, the state, or any  
223 agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of either.

224 (2) For profit and nonprofit private entities.



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225 (3) Public bodies, departments, or authorities  
226 including, but not limited to, any entity in the Executive  
227 Branch of the state, to act on behalf of the board in carrying  
228 out functions that the board determines are consistent with  
229 this act and the powers of the center.

230 (c) (1) Members of the board shall be subject to the  
231 state ethics laws under Chapter 25 of Title 36, Code of  
232 Alabama 1975, but members of the board shall not be required  
233 to submit a statement of economic interests under Section  
234 36-25-14, Code of Alabama 1975. The center is not a business  
235 for purposes of the state ethics laws, Chapter 25 of Title 36,  
236 Code of Alabama 1975, and a public official or public employee  
237 holding a position on the board is not precluded from taking  
238 official actions affecting the center as long as there is no  
239 impermissible personal gain.

240 (2) The board is subject to the Alabama Open Meetings  
241 Act under Chapter 25A of Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975. In  
242 addition to the reasons set forth in Section 36-25A-7, the  
243 board may go into executive session to discuss sensitive  
244 issues related to veteran needs, programs, or services.

245 Section 6. (a) The board may enter into contracts,  
246 leases, agreements, investments, and may otherwise expend  
247 monies without compliance with competitive bid laws under  
248 Article 5, commencing with Section 41-4-110, of Chapter 4 of  
249 Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and Chapter 2 of Title 39,  
250 Code of Alabama 1975.

251 (b) Solely as a result of entering into contracts,  
252 leases, agreements, investments, or otherwise as provided in



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253 subsection (a), no for-profit or nonprofit private entity, nor  
254 the officers, employees, agents, or directors of any of the  
255 foregoing, shall become subject to state ethics laws or the  
256 Alabama Open Meetings Act under Chapter 25 and Chapter 25A of  
257 Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975; competitive bid laws under  
258 Article 5, commencing with Section 41-4-110, of Chapter 4 of  
259 Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975; Chapter 2 of Title 39, Code of  
260 Alabama 1975; or public records laws under Article 3,  
261 commencing with Section 36-12-40, of Chapter 12 of Title 36,  
262 Code of Alabama 1975.

263 Section 7. In addition to the powers provided in  
264 Section 5, the board may enter into annual public-private  
265 partnerships with nonprofit organizations and other entities  
266 to leverage resources and expertise in support of the center's  
267 mission and purpose. Each public-private partnership is  
268 subject to annual renewal by the board.

269 Section 8. (a) The Alabama Veterans Resource Center  
270 Fund is created in the State Treasury. All monies received by  
271 the board pursuant to this act or otherwise from any source  
272 permitted by this act shall be deposited into the State  
273 Treasury to the credit of the fund. Amounts deposited into the  
274 fund shall be budgeted and allotted in accordance with  
275 Sections 41-4-80 through 41-4-96 and Sections 41-19-1 through  
276 41-19-12, Code of Alabama 1975.

277 (b) The center may accept additional funding from  
278 public and private sources, including appropriations, loans,  
279 federal gifts, grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual  
280 donations.



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281           Section 9. The board, at any time and by majority vote,  
282 may cause its application for formation to be amended by  
283 having three members of its board of directors file an  
284 amendment with the Secretary of State, which shall be sworn to  
285 by each signatory thereto before an officer authorized to take  
286 acknowledgments to deeds.

287           Section 10. (a) The board, at any time and by a  
288 three-quarters vote, may dissolve the center by having  
289 three-quarters of the members of the board file with the  
290 Secretary of State an application for dissolution, which shall  
291 be sworn to by each signatory thereto by an officer authorized  
292 to take acknowledgments to deeds.

293           (b) Upon the filing of the application for dissolution,  
294 the center shall cease to exist. The Secretary of State shall  
295 file and record the application for dissolution, and shall  
296 make and issue, under the Great Seal of the State, a  
297 certificate that the center is dissolved, and shall record the  
298 certificate with the application for dissolution. Title to all  
299 property held in the name of the center shall be vested in the  
300 state upon dissolution of the center, and the ex officio board  
301 members, by written consent, shall direct how to dispose of  
302 any monies in the Alabama Veterans Resource Center Fund.

303           Section 11. This act shall be liberally construed to  
304 effectuate its purposes.

305           Section 12. This act shall become effective on June 1,  
306 2025.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB70  
Senate 06-Feb-25  
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed  
the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Amended and passed: 18-Feb-25

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Senate concurred in House amendment 18-Feb-25

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By: Senator Jones