

**SB80 ENROLLED**



1 SB80  
2 KXP4UUU-2  
3 By Senator Butler  
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



## SB80 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 Relating to the Alabama Local Government Training Act;  
5 to amend Sections 11-3-42, 11-3-44, 11-3-45, 31-9-61, and  
6 36-25-4.2, Code of Alabama 1975; to change the name of the  
7 Alabama Local Government Training Institute to the Buddy  
8 Sharpless Education Institute.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. Sections 11-3-42, 11-3-44, 11-3-45, 31-9-61,  
11 and 36-25-4.2, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 "§11-3-42

14 As used in this article, the following terms ~~shall~~ have  
15 the following ~~respective~~ meanings, except where the context  
16 clearly indicates a different meaning:

17 (1) BOARD. The Board of Directors of the ~~Alabama Local~~  
18 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute.

19 (2) COUNTY COMMISSION. The governing body as created in  
20 Section 11-3-1 and each county governing body created by local  
21 act.

22 (3) INSTITUTE. The ~~Alabama Local Government Training~~  
23 Buddy Sharpless Education Institute, named in memory of O.H.  
24 "Buddy" Sharpless, the former executive director of the  
25 Association of County Commissions of Alabama, under whose  
26 leadership the institute was established in 1994.

27 (4) STATE. The State of Alabama and any department,  
28 board, bureau, commission, or other agency thereof."



## SB80 Enrolled

29 "§11-3-44

30 (a) There is created and established the ~~Alabama Local~~  
31 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute. All  
32 costs of operating and conducting the institute shall be paid  
33 from public funds appropriated for this purpose.

34 (b) The institute shall have the power, duty, and  
35 authority to design, implement, and administer the course of  
36 training and education pursuant to this article.

37 (c) The course of training and education required by  
38 Section 11-3-43 shall be conducted by the institute as soon as  
39 practicable after each general election at which county  
40 commissioners are elected. The training and education shall be  
41 completed no later than two years from the election. The  
42 institute shall have sole responsibility for determining the  
43 specific date or dates the course of training and education  
44 shall be conducted.

45 (d) The board shall establish guidelines and procedures  
46 to permit ~~a person~~ an individual elected or appointed as a  
47 member of a county commission who is unable to attend or  
48 complete the course of training and education when offered by  
49 the institute due to the appointment of a commissioner to fill  
50 a vacant office during a term, medical disability,  
51 providential cause, or another reason deemed sufficient by the  
52 board to comply with the requirements of this article.

53 (e) The board shall perform all other duties and have  
54 other powers and authority necessary and proper or as  
55 prescribed by general law."

56 "§11-3-45



## SB80 Enrolled

57 (a) The institute shall be under the direction and  
58 supervision of the Board of the ~~Alabama Local Government~~  
59 ~~Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute. The board shall  
60 have the power and duty to organize, administer, control,  
61 oversee, and advise the institute so that the institute shall  
62 be operated pursuant to this article.

63 (b) The board shall be composed of the following  
64 members:

65 (1) One representative of a four-year institution of  
66 higher education in Alabama appointed by the Alabama  
67 Commission on Higher Education.

68 (2) The President of the Association of County  
69 Commissions of Alabama.

70 (3) The Executive Director of the Association of County  
71 Commissions of Alabama.

72 (4) Three members who shall serve at the pleasure of  
73 and be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association  
74 of County Commissions of Alabama.

75 (5) The Chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs  
76 Committee.

77 (6) The Chair of the Local Government Committee of the  
78 House of Representatives.

79 (7) One member appointed by the Governor.

80 (8) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

81 (9) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
82 Representatives.

83 (c) Members of the board appointed by the Governor,  
84 Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of



## SB80 Enrolled

85 Representatives shall be county commissioners who shall serve  
86 for four-year terms.

87 (d) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their  
88 appointments to assure the board membership is inclusive and  
89 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and  
90 economic diversity of the state.

91 (e) The board shall annually elect a chair and other  
92 officers deemed expedient. The officers shall serve at the  
93 pleasure of the board and shall have the duties and powers  
94 determined by the board.

95 (f) The board may accept appropriations, grants, gifts,  
96 donations, or contributions from the federal government and  
97 the state government; a county, municipal, or local  
98 government; a board, bureau, commission, agency, or  
99 establishment of any such government; another organization,  
100 firm, or corporation, public or private; and an individual or  
101 groups of individuals in furtherance of the services,  
102 purposes, duties, responsibilities, or functions vested in the  
103 board and college.

104 (g) The board shall make contracts, leases, or  
105 agreements necessary and convenient to carry out the duties  
106 and purposes for which the board is created. The board shall  
107 enter into contracts, leases, or agreements with ~~a person~~ an  
108 individual, firm, or corporation, public or private, upon  
109 terms and for purposes deemed advisable.

110 (h) The board shall provide advanced or continuing  
111 training and education to county commissioners through the  
112 institute in addition to that required by Section 11-3-43.



## SB80 Enrolled

113 Public funds may be expended for the advanced or continuing  
114 training and education in the same manner as the required  
115 training and education, but a county commissioner's enrollment  
116 in, attendance at, or completion of an advanced course of  
117 study shall be voluntary and shall not be required.

118 (i) The board shall provide for the grant of awards,  
119 degrees, diplomas, or other forms of recognition for  
120 successful completion of its programs as it deems proper. The  
121 board may also award certification to county employees and  
122 programs meeting the criteria established by the board or by  
123 state agencies.

124 (j) The board shall receive no additional compensation  
125 for their service pursuant to this article.

126 (k) Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum  
127 for the purpose of transacting business."

128 "§31-9-61

129 (a) (1) The following requirements are ~~hereby~~  
130 established for the position of certified local emergency  
131 management director created herein:

132 a. Satisfactory completion of two years of college  
133 level education.

134 b. At least three years of work experience in the area  
135 of emergency response, emergency management, or qualified  
136 military service.

137 c. Two hundred hours of course work in emergency  
138 management as recommended by the Alabama Association of  
139 Emergency managers and approved by the Director of the Alabama  
140 Emergency Management Agency.



## SB80 Enrolled

141 (2) Any individual who is serving as a local emergency  
142 management director on June 14, 2007, shall be deemed to  
143 satisfy the requirement for two years of college level  
144 education if he or she has a minimum five years' work  
145 experience as a local emergency management director and he or  
146 she meets the requirement of paragraph (a)(1)c.

147 (b) Any local emergency management director meeting the  
148 standards set out in subsection (a) shall be granted the  
149 designation of local emergency management director without the  
150 completion of any further requirements unless the requirements  
151 are approved by the governing board of the ~~Alabama Local~~  
152 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute  
153 established in Section 11-3-44."

154 "§36-25-4.2

155 (a) At the beginning of each legislative quadrennium,  
156 the State Ethics Commission shall provide for and administer  
157 training programs on the ~~State Ethics Law~~ state ethics laws  
158 for members of the Legislature, state constitutional officers,  
159 cabinet officers, executive staff, municipal mayors, council  
160 members and commissioners, county commissioners, and  
161 lobbyists.

162 (1) The training program for legislators shall be held  
163 at least once at the beginning of each quadrennium for members  
164 of the Legislature. An additional training program shall be  
165 held if any changes are made to this chapter, and shall be  
166 held within three months of the effective date of the changes.  
167 The time and place of the training programs shall be  
168 determined by the Executive Director of the State Ethics

## SB80 Enrolled



169 Commission and the Legislative Council. Each legislator must  
170 attend the training programs. The State Ethics Commission  
171 shall also provide a mandatory program for any legislator  
172 elected in a special election within three months of the date  
173 that the legislator assumes office.

174 (2) The training program for the state constitutional  
175 officers, cabinet members, and executive staff, as determined  
176 by the Governor, shall be held within the first 30 days after  
177 the Governor has been sworn into office. An additional  
178 training program shall be held if any changes are made to this  
179 chapter, and shall be held within three months of the  
180 effective date of the changes. The specific date of the  
181 training program shall be established by the Executive  
182 Director of the State Ethics Commission with the advice of the  
183 Governor and other constitutional officers.

184 (3) The training program for lobbyists shall be held  
185 four times annually as designated by the Executive Director of  
186 the State Ethics Commission, the first of which shall be held  
187 within the first 30 days of the year. Each lobbyist must  
188 attend a training program within 90 days of registering as a  
189 lobbyist. A lobbyist who fails to attend a training program  
190 shall not be allowed to lobby the Legislature, Executive  
191 Branch, Judicial Branch, public officials, or public  
192 employees. After attending one training program, a lobbyist  
193 shall not be required to attend an additional training program  
194 unless any changes are made to this chapter. ~~Such additional~~  
195 Additional mandatory training program shall be held within  
196 three months of the effective date of the changes.





## SB80 Enrolled

197 (4) All municipal mayors, council members and  
198 commissioners, county commissioners, and members of any local  
199 board of education in office as of January 1, 2011, shall  
200 obtain training within 120 days of that date. Thereafter, all  
201 municipal mayors, council members and commissioners, ~~and~~  
202 county commissioners, and members of local boards of education  
203 shall obtain training within 120 days of being sworn into  
204 office. Training shall be available online and may be  
205 conducted either online or in person. Evidence of completion  
206 of the training shall be provided to the commission via an  
207 electronic reporting system provided on the official website.  
208 The scheduling of training opportunities for municipal mayors,  
209 council members and commissioners, and county commissioners  
210 shall be established by the Executive Director of the State  
211 Ethics Commission with the advice and assistance of the  
212 Alabama League of Municipalities and the Association of County  
213 Commissions of Alabama. Any provision of this section to the  
214 contrary notwithstanding, the training for county  
215 commissioners required by this subdivision shall be satisfied  
216 by the successful completion of the 10-hour course on ethical  
217 requirements of public officials provided by the ~~Alabama Local~~  
218 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute  
219 established pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 11.  
220 The ~~Alabama Local Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless  
221 Education Institute shall quarterly provide written notice to  
222 the State Ethics Commission the names of those county  
223 commissioners completing the institute's program.

224 (b) The curriculum of each session and faculty for the

**SB80 Enrolled**



225 training program shall be determined by the Executive Director  
226 of the State Ethics Commission. The curriculum shall include,  
227 but not be limited to, a review of the current law, a  
228 discussion of actual cases and advisory opinions on which the  
229 State Ethics Commission has ruled, and a question and answer  
230 period for attendees. The faculty for the training program may  
231 include the staff of the State Ethics Commission, members of  
232 the faculties of the various law schools in the state, and  
233 other persons deemed appropriate by the Executive Director of  
234 the State Ethics Commission and shall include experts in the  
235 field of ethics law, persons affected by the ethics law, and  
236 members of the press and media.

237 (c) Except as provided herein, attendance at any  
238 session of the training program shall be mandatory, except in  
239 the event the person is suffering a catastrophic illness.

240 (d) This section shall not preclude the penalizing,  
241 prosecution, or conviction of any member of the Legislature,  
242 any public official, or public employee prior to such person  
243 attending a mandatory training program.

244 (e) All public employees required to file the Statement  
245 of Economic Interests required by Section 36-25-14, no later  
246 than May 1, 2011, shall participate in an online educational  
247 review of the ~~Alabama Ethics Law~~ state ethics laws provided on  
248 the official website of the commission. Employees hired after  
249 January 1, 2011, shall have 90 days to comply with this  
250 subsection. Evidence of completion of the educational review  
251 shall be provided to the commission via an electronic  
252 reporting system provided on the official website."



## SB80 Enrolled

253                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
254   1, 2025.



**SB80 Enrolled**

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB80

Senate 20-Feb-25

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

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

Passed: 04-Mar-25

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By: Senator Butler