

SB80 INTRODUCED



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



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Local Government Training Institute provides training and education to newly elected county commissioners on matters pertaining to the administration and operation of county government. The institute was established in 1994 under the leadership of O.H. "Buddy" Sharpless, who was the Executive Director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama at that time.

This bill would change the name of the Alabama Local Government Training Institute to the Buddy Sharpless Education Institute, in memory of O.H. "Buddy" Sharpless, who passed away on May 8, 2024.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



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

32 "§11-3-42

33 As used in this article, the following terms ~~shall~~ have
34 the following ~~respective~~ meanings, except where the context
35 clearly indicates a different meaning:

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

38 (2) COUNTY COMMISSION. The governing body as created in
39 Section 11-3-1 and each county governing body created by local
40 act.

41 (3) INSTITUTE. The ~~Alabama Local Government Training~~
42 Buddy Sharpless Education Institute, named in memory of O.H.
43 "Buddy" Sharpless, the former executive director of the
44 Association of County Commissions of Alabama, under whose
45 leadership the institute was established in 1994.

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

48 "§11-3-44

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

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

56 (c) The course of training and education required by



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57 Section 11-3-43 shall be conducted by the institute as soon as
58 practicable after each general election at which county
59 commissioners are elected. The training and education shall be
60 completed no later than two years from the election. The
61 institute shall have sole responsibility for determining the
62 specific date or dates the course of training and education
63 shall be conducted.

64 (d) The board shall establish guidelines and procedures
65 to permit ~~a person~~ an individual elected or appointed as a
66 member of a county commission who is unable to attend or
67 complete the course of training and education when offered by
68 the institute due to the appointment of a commissioner to fill
69 a vacant office during a term, medical disability,
70 providential cause, or another reason deemed sufficient by the
71 board to comply with the requirements of this article.

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

75 "§11-3-45

76 (a) The institute shall be under the direction and
77 supervision of the Board of the ~~Alabama Local Government~~
78 Training Buddy Sharpless Education Institute. The board shall
79 have the power and duty to organize, administer, control,
80 oversee, and advise the institute so that the institute shall
81 be operated pursuant to this article.

82 (b) The board shall be composed of the following
83 members:

84 (1) One representative of a four-year institution of



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85 higher education in Alabama appointed by the Alabama
86 Commission on Higher Education.

87 (2) The President of the Association of County
88 Commissions of Alabama.

89 (3) The Executive Director of the Association of County
90 Commissions of Alabama.

91 (4) Three members who shall serve at the pleasure of
92 and be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association
93 of County Commissions of Alabama.

94 (5) The Chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs
95 Committee.

96 (6) The Chair of the Local Government Committee of the
97 House of Representatives.

98 (7) One member appointed by the Governor.

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

100 (9) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
101 Representatives.

102 (c) Members of the board appointed by the Governor,
103 Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of
104 Representatives shall be county commissioners who shall serve
105 for four-year terms.

106 (d) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
107 appointments to assure the board membership is inclusive and
108 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
109 economic diversity of the state.

110 (e) The board shall annually elect a chair and other
111 officers deemed expedient. The officers shall serve at the
112 pleasure of the board and shall have the duties and powers



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113 determined by the board.

114 (f) The board may accept appropriations, grants, gifts,
115 donations, or contributions from the federal government and
116 the state government; a county, municipal, or local
117 government; a board, bureau, commission, agency, or
118 establishment of any such government; another organization,
119 firm, or corporation, public or private; and an individual or
120 groups of individuals in furtherance of the services,
121 purposes, duties, responsibilities, or functions vested in the
122 board and college.

123 (g) The board shall make contracts, leases, or
124 agreements necessary and convenient to carry out the duties
125 and purposes for which the board is created. The board shall
126 enter into contracts, leases, or agreements with ~~a person~~ an
127 individual, firm, or corporation, public or private, upon
128 terms and for purposes deemed advisable.

129 (h) The board shall provide advanced or continuing
130 training and education to county commissioners through the
131 institute in addition to that required by Section 11-3-43.
132 Public funds may be expended for the advanced or continuing
133 training and education in the same manner as the required
134 training and education, but a county commissioner's enrollment
135 in, attendance at, or completion of an advanced course of
136 study shall be voluntary and shall not be required.

137 (i) The board shall provide for the grant of awards,
138 degrees, diplomas, or other forms of recognition for
139 successful completion of its programs as it deems proper. The
140 board may also award certification to county employees and



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141 programs meeting the criteria established by the board or by
142 state agencies.

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

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

147 "§31-9-61

148 (a) (1) The following requirements are ~~hereby~~
149 established for the position of certified local emergency
150 management director created herein:

151 a. Satisfactory completion of two years of college
152 level education.

153 b. At least three years of work experience in the area
154 of emergency response, emergency management, or qualified
155 military service.

156 c. Two hundred hours of course work in emergency
157 management as recommended by the Alabama Association of
158 Emergency managers and approved by the Director of the Alabama
159 Emergency Management Agency.

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

166 (b) Any local emergency management director meeting the
167 standards set out in subsection (a) shall be granted the
168 designation of local emergency management director without the



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169 completion of any further requirements unless the requirements
170 are approved by the governing board of the ~~Alabama Local~~
171 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute
172 established in Section 11-3-44."

173 "§36-25-4.2

174 (a) At the beginning of each legislative quadrennium,
175 the State Ethics Commission shall provide for and administer
176 training programs on the ~~State Ethics Law~~ state ethics laws
177 for members of the Legislature, state constitutional officers,
178 cabinet officers, executive staff, municipal mayors, council
179 members and commissioners, county commissioners, and
180 lobbyists.

181 (1) The training program for legislators shall be held
182 at least once at the beginning of each quadrennium for members
183 of the Legislature. An additional training program shall be
184 held if any changes are made to this chapter, and shall be
185 held within three months of the effective date of the changes.
186 The time and place of the training programs shall be
187 determined by the Executive Director of the State Ethics
188 Commission and the Legislative Council. Each legislator must
189 attend the training programs. The State Ethics Commission
190 shall also provide a mandatory program for any legislator
191 elected in a special election within three months of the date
192 that the legislator assumes office.

193 (2) The training program for the state constitutional
194 officers, cabinet members, and executive staff, as determined
195 by the Governor, shall be held within the first 30 days after
196 the Governor has been sworn into office. An additional



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197 training program shall be held if any changes are made to this
198 chapter, and shall be held within three months of the
199 effective date of the changes. The specific date of the
200 training program shall be established by the Executive
201 Director of the State Ethics Commission with the advice of the
202 Governor and other constitutional officers.

203 (3) The training program for lobbyists shall be held
204 four times annually as designated by the Executive Director of
205 the State Ethics Commission, the first of which shall be held
206 within the first 30 days of the year. Each lobbyist must
207 attend a training program within 90 days of registering as a
208 lobbyist. A lobbyist who fails to attend a training program
209 shall not be allowed to lobby the Legislature, Executive
210 Branch, Judicial Branch, public officials, or public
211 employees. After attending one training program, a lobbyist
212 shall not be required to attend an additional training program
213 unless any changes are made to this chapter. ~~Such additional~~
214 Additional mandatory training program shall be held within
215 three months of the effective date of the changes.

216 (4) All municipal mayors, council members and
217 commissioners, county commissioners, and members of any local
218 board of education in office as of January 1, 2011, shall
219 obtain training within 120 days of that date. Thereafter, all
220 municipal mayors, council members and commissioners, ~~and~~
221 county commissioners, and members of local boards of education
222 shall obtain training within 120 days of being sworn into
223 office. Training shall be available online and may be
224 conducted either online or in person. Evidence of completion



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225 of the training shall be provided to the commission via an
226 electronic reporting system provided on the official website.
227 The scheduling of training opportunities for municipal mayors,
228 council members and commissioners, and county commissioners
229 shall be established by the Executive Director of the State
230 Ethics Commission with the advice and assistance of the
231 Alabama League of Municipalities and the Association of County
232 Commissions of Alabama. Any provision of this section to the
233 contrary notwithstanding, the training for county
234 commissioners required by this subdivision shall be satisfied
235 by the successful completion of the 10-hour course on ethical
236 requirements of public officials provided by the ~~Alabama Local~~
237 ~~Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless Education Institute
238 established pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 11.
239 The ~~Alabama Local Government Training~~ Buddy Sharpless
240 Education Institute shall quarterly provide written notice to
241 the State Ethics Commission the names of those county
242 commissioners completing the institute's program.

243 (b) The curriculum of each session and faculty for the
244 training program shall be determined by the Executive Director
245 of the State Ethics Commission. The curriculum shall include,
246 but not be limited to, a review of the current law, a
247 discussion of actual cases and advisory opinions on which the
248 State Ethics Commission has ruled, and a question and answer
249 period for attendees. The faculty for the training program may
250 include the staff of the State Ethics Commission, members of
251 the faculties of the various law schools in the state, and
252 other persons deemed appropriate by the Executive Director of



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253 the State Ethics Commission and shall include experts in the
254 field of ethics law, persons affected by the ethics law, and
255 members of the press and media.

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

259 (d) This section shall not preclude the penalizing,
260 prosecution, or conviction of any member of the Legislature,
261 any public official, or public employee prior to such person
262 attending a mandatory training program.

263 (e) All public employees required to file the Statement
264 of Economic Interests required by Section 36-25-14, no later
265 than May 1, 2011, shall participate in an online educational
266 review of the ~~Alabama Ethics Law~~ state ethics laws provided on
267 the official website of the commission. Employees hired after
268 January 1, 2011, shall have 90 days to comply with this
269 subsection. Evidence of completion of the educational review
270 shall be provided to the commission via an electronic
271 reporting system provided on the official website."

272 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
273 1, 2025.