

## HB323 INTRODUCED



1 HB323

2 CXSS4WJ-1

3 By Representatives Moore (P), Brown, Smith, Paschal, Crawford,  
4 Rehm, Starnes, Rafferty, Carns, Standridge, Robertson, Oliver,  
5 Wood (R), Stringer, Sorrells, Marques, Kiel, Robbins,  
6 Treadaway, Pettus, Lawrence, Sellers, Daniels, Jackson, Jones,  
7 Bracy, Estes

8 RFD: Military and Veterans' Affairs

9 First Read: 22-Jan-26



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## 4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, members of the National  
6 Guard may be presented awards for certain  
7 accomplishments and service by order of the Governor.

8 This bill would revise the requirements for  
9 Alabama National Guard members to receive these awards.

10 This bill would create new awards for Alabama  
11 National Guard Members for certain accomplishments and  
12 service.

13 This bill would also prescribe that certain  
14 awards may be presented by the Governor and that  
15 certain awards may be presented by the Adjutant  
16 General.

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19 A BILL

20 TO BE ENTITLED

21 AN ACT

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23 Relating to state military; to amend Section 31-2-41,  
24 Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the criteria to receive  
25 certain awards; to create new awards; and to prescribe that  
26 certain awards may be presented by the Governor or Adjutant  
27 General.

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



29                   Section 1. Section 31-2-41, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
30                   amended to read as follows:

31                   "§31-2-41

32                   (a) The Governor may present, at the expense of the  
33                   state, the following military awards to persons meeting the  
34                   respective requirements for each award. Each award may be  
35                   awarded posthumously. Concurrence of the Adjutant General  
36                   shall be required to present an award unless initiated by the  
37                   Governor. Recommendations for an award shall contain complete  
38                   factual information, including dates, as to the service or act  
39                   for which the award is recommended, with an appropriate  
40                   proposed citation:

41                   (1) Governor's Cross. The Governor's Cross of Alabama  
42                   is the highest award. The award is presented for exceptional,  
43                   distinguished, and heroic military or civilian service in  
44                   support of military or domestic operations to the state.  
45                   Recipients shall have exhibited exceptional service through  
46                   personal acts of courage, bravery, or selfless service to the  
47                   state, including individuals who distinguish themselves by  
48                   conspicuously and voluntarily exhibiting a high degree of  
49                   courage or heroism by risking serious personal injury or death  
50                   in an attempt to save another individual whose life is in  
51                   danger during a military or training exercise.

52                   (2) Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished  
53                   Service Medal of Alabama is the second highest award. The  
54                   award is presented for exceptional meritorious and  
55                   distinguished military or civilian service in support of  
56                   military operations for individuals serving in positions of



57 great responsibility during times of war or peace.

58       (3) Alabama Commendation Medal. The Alabama  
59       Commendation Medal is the third highest award. The award is  
60       presented for meritorious and outstanding services and  
61       accomplishments. The service may be military performance of  
62       duty in time of war or peace. The medal may be awarded to  
63       foreign military or civilian personnel who distinguish  
64       themselves in a mutually beneficial manner to both the state  
65       and the nation.

66       (b) The Adjutant General may present, at the expense of  
67       the state, the following military awards to persons meeting  
68       the respective requirements for each award. Each award may be  
69       awarded posthumously. Recommendations for an award shall  
70       contain complete factual information, including dates, as to  
71       the service or act for which the award is recommended, with an  
72       appropriate proposed citation:

73       (1) Exceptional Service Ribbon. The Exceptional Service  
74       Ribbon of Alabama is the fourth highest award. The award is  
75       presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have  
76       served an aggregate of 30 days in the state active service for  
77       meritorious and outstanding service during times of state  
78       emergencies in the support of upholding the law and preserving  
79       order, protecting lives and property, and in the relief of  
80       civilians in disaster and similar service ordered by the  
81       Governor.

82       (2) Faithful Service Ribbon of Alabama. The award is  
83       presented to~~Any~~ any present or former officer, warrant  
84       officer, or enlisted~~man~~ member of the Alabama National Guard



85 who ~~shall have~~ has faithfully served ~~in the National Guard or~~  
86 ~~Naval Militia~~ for an aggregate of six years shall have  
87 ~~conferred upon him the right to wear the Faithful Service~~  
88 ~~Cross, which shall be awarded by order of the Governor and~~  
89 ~~furnished at the expense of the state. Any officer, warrant~~  
90 ~~officer, or enlisted man of the National Guard or Naval~~  
91 ~~Militia of this state who shall have served an aggregate of 30~~  
92 ~~days in the active military service of the state, in the aid~~  
93 ~~of civil authorities in upholding the law and preserving~~  
94 ~~order, protecting lives and property, in the aid and relief of~~  
95 ~~citizens in disaster and other similar service, duly ordered~~  
96 ~~by the Governor, shall have conferred upon him the right to~~  
97 ~~wear the Special Service Medal, which shall be awarded by~~  
98 ~~order of the Governor and furnished at the expense of the~~  
99 ~~state. Any officer, warrant officer, or enlisted man of the~~  
100 ~~National Guard or the Naval Militia of this state who shall~~  
101 ~~have faithfully served in the National Guard or Naval Militia~~  
102 ~~of this state an aggregate of 20 years, shall have conferred~~  
103 ~~upon him the right to wear the Veterans Service Medal, which~~  
104 ~~shall be awarded by order of the Governor and furnished at the~~  
105 ~~expense of the state. Service in the organizations of the~~  
106 ~~National Guard or Naval Militia called, drafted, or ordered~~  
107 ~~into the service of the United States shall be credited as~~  
108 ~~active service in the National Guard or Naval Militia of this~~  
109 ~~state for the purposes named in this section, when the soldier~~  
110 ~~or sailor is a member of the National Guard or Naval Militia~~  
111 ~~on the date of federal call, draft, or order, and this~~  
112 ~~provision shall be retroactive so as to include service in any~~



113 ~~war or during acts of hostility. The Special Service Medal may~~  
114 ~~also be awarded for such special individual acts as the~~  
115 ~~Military Advisory Board may determine to be meritorious and~~  
116 ~~the Governor may approve, without regard to the period of time~~  
117 ~~involved or the date of the act. A bronze St. Andrews Cross~~  
118 shall be added to the award for each additional three years  
119 served beyond six years to denote the total number of years  
120 served by the member.

121 (3) Phenix City Civil Disturbance Medal of Alabama. The  
122 award is presented for military duty or civilian service that  
123 contributed to the overall effort during the Phenix City civil  
124 disturbance that occurred from June 18, 1954 to January 17,  
125 1955.

126 (4) Operation Desert Storm Ribbon. The award is  
127 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard activated  
128 on Title 10 orders who served in direct support of Operation  
129 Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield for at least 30 days.  
130 Service members who worked on special duty preparing units for  
131 mobilization are not eligible for the award.

132 (5) National Emergency Service Ribbon of Alabama. The  
133 award includes the Berlin Crisis Clasp and 9-11 Clasp. The  
134 Berlin Crisis Clasp is presented to members of the Alabama  
135 National Guard called into active federal service during the  
136 Berlin Crisis National Emergency, pursuant to Public Law  
137 87-117, and Presidential Executive Order 10957, dated August  
138 15, 1961. The 9-11 Clasp is presented to members of the  
139 Alabama National Guard called to active federal service under  
140 Title 10, United States Code for Operation Noble Eagle, Iraqi



## HB323 INTRODUCED

141 Freedom, or Enduring Freedom for a minimum of 24 hours in  
142 support thereof.

143 (6) Veterans Service Medal of Alabama. The award is  
144 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have  
145 served an aggregate of 21 years in active service, including  
146 constructive service in organizations of the National Guard  
147 while ordered into the federal service. Qualifying service  
148 does not include constructive service in any Reserve  
149 Component, except the National Guard. A bronze oak leaf  
150 cluster shall be added to the award for each three additional  
151 years served beyond 21 years to denote the total number of  
152 years served by the member.

153 (7) Special Service Ribbon of Alabama. The award is  
154 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have  
155 served an aggregate of 30 days in the state active service for  
156 meritorious and outstanding service during times of state  
157 emergencies in the support of upholding the law and preserving  
158 order, protecting lives and property, and in the relief of  
159 civilians in disaster and similar service ordered by the  
160 Governor.

161 (8) First Sergeant Service Ribbon. The award is  
162 presented to a First Sergeant, Special Duty Identifier 8F000,  
163 in recognition of meritorious service who has been assigned to  
164 a First Sergeant Unit Manning Position for at least three  
165 years and has attended the United States Air Force or Air  
166 National Guard First Sergeant Academy. Acting First Sergeants  
167 are not eligible for the award.

168 (9) Honor Guard Service Ribbon. The award is presented



169 to all members of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard who  
170 perform military funeral honors and who satisfy all Honor  
171 Guard expectations, including completion of the requisite  
172 number of funeral details.

173 (10) Alabama National Guard Recruiting Ribbon. The  
174 award is presented to members of the Alabama National Guard  
175 who have excelled as a production recruiter and who meet the  
176 qualifications set by the State Military Department.

177 (11) Alabama National Guard Recruiting Lead Generation  
178 Ribbon. The award is presented to members of the Alabama  
179 National Guard who are not assigned or employed with the  
180 Recruiting and Retention Unit in recognition of excellence in  
181 recruiting as determined by the State Military Department.

182 (12) Basic Training Ribbon of Alabama. The award is  
183 presented to members of the Alabama National Guard who have  
184 successfully completed the Basic Training Course after the  
185 year 1955.

186 (13) Certificate of Appreciation. The award is  
187 presented for domestic and foreign military and civilian  
188 persons whose acts of good public and community relations were  
189 in the interest of and support the State Military Department.

190 (14) Certificate of Extension. The award is presented  
191 to members of the Alabama National Guard for each extension of  
192 three years or more after his or her initial term for faithful  
193 and honorable service."

194 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
195 1, 2026.