

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1056

4  
5 By: Representative Evans  
6 By: Senator Hester

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND  
10 VETERANS AFFAIRS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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14 TO CREATE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
15 MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS; AND TO  
16 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 10, Chapter 3, is amended to add an  
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

### Subchapter 33 –

#### Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

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26 10-3-3301. Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs – Creation  
27 – Members.

28 (a) There is established a joint committee of the House of  
29 Representatives and the Senate to be known as the “Joint Committee on  
30 Military and Veterans Affairs”.

31 (b)(1) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall be a  
32 select committee of the House of Representatives and a joint committee of the  
33 Senate whose members shall be selected as follows:

34 (A)(i) Twelve (12) members of the House of Representatives  
35 to be selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

36 (ii) One (1) alternate member for each of the House



1 members of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall be  
2 selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

3 (iii) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner  
4 as the original selection; and

5 (B)(i) Eight (8) members of the Senate to consist of the  
6 members of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs.

7 (ii) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as  
8 a vacancy is filled on the Senate Committee on State Agencies and  
9 Governmental Affairs.

10 (2) Members appointed to the Joint Committee on Military and  
11 Veterans Affairs shall serve on the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans  
12 Affairs in addition to their service on the regular standing, joint, and  
13 select committees of the General Assembly.

14 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate  
15 one (1) of the House members of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans  
16 Affairs as the House Cochair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans  
17 Affairs and one (1) of the House members of the Joint Committee on Military  
18 and Veterans Affairs as the House Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on  
19 Military and Veterans Affairs.

20 (4) The Chair of the Senate Committee on State Agencies and  
21 Governmental Affairs shall serve as the Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee  
22 on Military and Veterans Affairs and the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee  
23 on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs shall serve as the Senate Co-Vice  
24 Chair of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

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26 10-3-3302. Powers and Duties of Joint Committee on Military and  
27 Veterans Affairs.

28 (a) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs may meet  
29 during:

30 (1) A regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session  
31 of the General Assembly;

32 (2) An extended recess of the General Assembly; and

33 (3) The interim between legislative sessions of the General  
34 Assembly.

35 (b) A bill or resolution introduced during a legislative session in  
36 either house of the General Assembly pertaining to military or veterans

1 affairs shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans  
2 Affairs.

3 (c)(1) The Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs shall make  
4 continuing studies concerning issues related to military and veterans  
5 affairs, either initiated by the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans  
6 Affairs or referred to it by either house of the General Assembly for study.

7 (2) Interim study proposals and resolutions filed with the  
8 Legislative Council under § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the  
9 appropriate interim committee of the General Assembly, relating to military  
10 and veterans affairs, shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Military  
11 and Veterans Affairs.

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13 10-3-3303. Interim committee meetings – Expenses – Staff.

14 (a)(1) Members are entitled to per diem and mileage for attendance at  
15 meetings of the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs at the rate  
16 provided by law to be paid from funds appropriated for payment of per diem  
17 and mileage for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the House of  
18 Representatives and the Senate.

19 (2) The per diem and mileage, including reimbursement for  
20 expenses for attending out-of-state meetings as provided by law, shall be  
21 paid from funds appropriated for per diem, mileage, and expenses of members  
22 of the General Assembly for attending interim committee meetings or from  
23 other funds provided by law for that purpose.

24 (b) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish such staff  
25 assistance as may be requested by the Joint Committee on Military and  
26 Veterans Affairs.

27 (c) All other appropriate state agencies, including without limitation  
28 the Department of the Military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall  
29 be available to assist the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
30 on matters before it, as may be requested by the Joint Committee on Military  
31 and Veterans Affairs.

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33 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
34 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the State of Arkansas faces  
35 increased and ongoing issues due to the growth of the military presence in  
36 the state, that the state must face and address these issues to better

1 protect our veterans and their families, that protection of our veterans and  
2 their families is paramount to the safety of our state and nation, and that  
3 this act is immediately necessary as veterans' issues are crucial and vital  
4 to the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and  
5 this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
6 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

7 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

8 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
9 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
10 bill; or

11 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
12 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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