

WILL AINSWORTH
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

February 25, 2020

Members of the Alabama Legislature,

Last week the Senate held a Military Day to focus on legislation drafted to benefit members of the armed forces in Alabama in an effort to avoid any possibility of future Base Realignment discussions adversely impacting Alabama. This package of bills was initiated by the Military Stability Commission, of which I chair, and is comprised of:

Colonel Joel Denney
Brigadier General Timothy Edens
Major General Perry G. Smith
Major General James H. Pillsbury
Major General Ronald F Sams
Mr. Joe Ritch
Mr. Shirrell Roberts
Mr. Nathan Hill

Mr. Nimrod Frazier Jr.
The Honorable Kenneth Boswell
The Honorable Greg Canfield
The Honorable Steve Clouse
The Honorable Dickie Drake
The Honorable Tom Butler
The Honorable Mac McCutcheon
The Honorable Arthur Orr

The impetus for addressing these issues was a letter from United States Secretary of Defense Mark Esper urging all states to address quality of life issues impacting military families. Challenges such as education opportunities for military dependents and licensure reciprocity for military spouses were specifically cited by the Secretary.

In a recent article from Air Force Magazine, published after the Senate passed the military package, Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett addressed these challenges:

“Under the new criteria, the service will evaluate the public education systems on academic performance, school climate, and service offerings. This includes data on graduation rates, chronic absenteeism, suspension rate, availability of free pre-kindergarten, and student-to-teacher ratio, among others.”

For licensure, the Air Force will evaluate how a state can accept licenses in accounting, cosmetology, emergency medical service, engineering, law, nursing, physical therapy, psychology, and teaching, among others that may arise. The impact is based on current laws, interstate compacts, military-specific rules, and executive impacts that are in place.”

With Alabama’s military presence having an economic impact of more than \$20 billion and representing more than 210,000 jobs, I cannot overstate the importance of addressing these challenges to ensure Alabama remains the most military friendly state in the country. I appreciate your support of the Military Stability Commission’s legislation to address Secretary Esper’s concerns.

Sincerely,

Will Ainsworth
Lieutenant Governor