

1 HR275
2 201970-1
3 By Representatives Moore (M) and Rogers
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 28-MAY-19

URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT VETERANS BY ESTABLISHING VETERANS HOMES IN OPP AND HARTSELLE.

WHEREAS, America's veterans have served with valor and distinction on behalf of a very grateful nation, and it is our societal duty to give back to those brave individuals who have risked their lives and made immeasurable sacrifices in defending our freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, providing our aging veteran population with the means to adequate health, safety, and welfare should be a top priority of our state; and

WHEREAS, currently the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operates four state veterans homes located in Alexander City, Huntsville, Bay Minette, and Pell City; these homes provide nursing home level care and other critical needs for veterans with dementia and similar conditions, as well as

1 assisted living-type care with basic needs, such as preparing
2 meals, to veterans who are mobile enough to come and go; and

3 WHEREAS, there are waiting lists for all four homes
4 and the wait times vary from three months to 24 months,
5 depending on the facility; veterans can be on a waiting list
6 for more than one home and once admitted, can remain on a list
7 for a preferred home; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Alabama Department of Veterans
9 Affairs conducted a feasibility study to determine if a fifth
10 state veterans home is needed and the report recommended that
11 an additional state veterans home be placed in the region of
12 the state that includes Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington,
13 Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike Counties; and

14 WHEREAS, there are federal funds available that
15 would pay approximately two-thirds of the cost to build a new
16 fifth facility and the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
17 Commissioner believes that there are sufficient funds in the
18 budget to pay the other one-third of the cost to build a new
19 facility; and

20 WHEREAS, since there are no state or federal
21 veterans homes in the Wiregrass area, locating a new state
22 veterans home in Opp, Alabama, would provide the veterans in
23 the southeast region of the state with access to the health
24 care that they desperately need; additionally, the now closed
25 and vacant Hartselle Medical Center in Hartselle, Alabama, has
26 been proposed as an additional site to open another state

1 veterans home, providing a sixth facility to assist and serve
2 the growing veteran population of our state; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we urge the U.S. Department
5 of Veterans Affairs and the Alabama Department of Veterans
6 Affairs to assist and support the veterans of our state by
7 establishing two new state veterans homes in Opp and
8 Hartselle, Alabama.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we direct that copies
10 of this resolution be delivered to the Secretary of the U.S.
11 Department of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of the
12 Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.