

1 SB319  
2 149482-2  
3 By Senator Whatley  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 12-MAR-13

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL  
8 TO BE ENTITLED  
9 AN ACT

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11 Relating to professional bondsmen, to require  
12 professional bondsmen to complete an initial instructional  
13 course and pass an examination prior to serving as a  
14 professional bondsman; to require continuing education; to  
15 provide for the suspension of the right to act as a  
16 professional bondsman upon failure to complete the  
17 requirements; to provide for fees; and to provide for  
18 disbursement of the fees.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, a  
21 "professional bondsman" means any individual person or agent  
22 who is employed by a professional surety company or  
23 professional bail company to solicit and execute appearance  
24 bonds or actively seek bail bond business for or in behalf of  
25 a professional surety company or a professional bail company.

26 (b) (1) A professional bondsman shall attend a  
27 20-hour instructional course and pass an introductory test

1 developed and administered by the statewide association  
2 representing persons in the bail bond business approved by the  
3 Association of Circuit Judges, prior to serving as a  
4 professional bondsman. Upon completion of the course and  
5 passage of the test, the person shall be awarded a certificate  
6 of completion by the association.

7 (2) Each year after initial certification, a  
8 professional bondsman shall complete 12 hours of continuing  
9 education developed and administered by the association. The  
10 association shall provide a certificate of completion to  
11 professional bondsmen satisfying this requirement.

12 (3) On or before December 31 of each year, a  
13 professional bondsman shall submit the certificate of  
14 completion of the 12-hour continuing education course to the  
15 court clerk, magistrate judge, judicial officer, sheriff,  
16 chief of police, individual, department, or any designee  
17 thereof, who is responsible for issuing bail bonds for each  
18 jurisdiction in which the professional bail bondsman is doing  
19 business.

20 (4) A professional bondsman who does not comply with  
21 subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) shall be suspended from acting  
22 as a professional bondsman during the term of noncompliance  
23 and until satisfactory proof is provided to the judge or other  
24 person responsible for issuing bail bonds for each  
25 jurisdiction in which the professional bondsman is doing  
26 business.

1 (c) (1) The cost of the 20-hour course and test shall  
2 not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) and the cost of the  
3 annual 12-hour continuing education course shall not exceed  
4 five hundred dollars (\$500).

5 (2) The money collected by the association for the  
6 administration of any course, test, or continuing education  
7 course under this section shall be distributed as follows:

8 a. Eighty-five percent to the association  
9 administering the course, test, or continuing education  
10 course.

11 b. Five percent to the local Judicial Administrative  
12 Fund.

13 c. Five percent to the circuit clerk's fund of the  
14 local circuit court clerk.

15 d. Five percent to the Alabama Sheriff's  
16 Association.

17 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
18 first day of the third month following its passage and  
19 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate  
committee on Judiciary..... 12-MAR-13

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-  
dar 1 amendment..... 24-APR-13

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 02-MAY-13

Yeas 23  
Nays 5

Patrick Harris  
Secretary