



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1242

Introduced 2/7/2017, by Sen. Terry Link

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/2

from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the superintendent and staff of any Veterans Assistance Commission created under the Military Veterans Assistance Act with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' process of becoming accredited as a service organization representative of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. Provides that this assistance shall include, but not be limited to, a certifying official of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs certifying with his or her signature on behalf of the superintendent and staff of a Veterans Assistance Commission the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Application for Accreditation as a Service Organization Representative, and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs filing the application with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

LRB100 07875 MJP 17946 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
5 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67)

7 Sec. 2. Powers and duties. The Department shall have the
8 following powers and duties:

9 To perform such acts at the request of any veteran, or his
10 or her spouse, surviving spouse or dependents as shall be
11 reasonably necessary or reasonably incident to obtaining or
12 endeavoring to obtain for the requester any advantage, benefit
13 or emolument accruing or due to such person under any law of
14 the United States, the State of Illinois or any other state or
15 governmental agency by reason of the service of such veteran,
16 and in pursuance thereof shall:

17 (1) Contact veterans, their survivors and dependents
18 and advise them of the benefits of state and federal laws
19 and assist them in obtaining such benefits;

20 (2) Establish field offices and direct the activities
21 of the personnel assigned to such offices;

22 (3) Create and maintain a volunteer field force; the
23 volunteer field force may include representatives from the

1 following without limitation: educational institutions,
2 labor organizations, veterans organizations, employers,
3 churches, and farm organizations; the volunteer field
4 force may not process federal veterans assistance claims;

5 (4) Conduct informational and training services;

6 (5) Conduct educational programs through newspapers,
7 periodicals, social media, television, and radio for the
8 specific purpose of disseminating information affecting
9 veterans and their dependents;

10 (6) Coordinate the services and activities of all state
11 departments having services and resources affecting
12 veterans and their dependents;

13 (7) Encourage and assist in the coordination of
14 agencies within counties giving service to veterans and
15 their dependents;

16 (8) Cooperate with veterans organizations and other
17 governmental agencies;

18 (9) Make, alter, amend and promulgate reasonable rules
19 and procedures for the administration of this Act;

20 (10) Make and publish annual reports to the Governor
21 regarding the administration and general operation of the
22 Department;

23 (11) (Blank); ~~and~~

24 (12) (Blank); and-

25 (13) Assist the superintendent and staff of any
26 Veterans Assistance Commission, created under the Military

1 Veterans Assistance Act, with the process of becoming
2 accredited as a service organization representative of the
3 Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs by the United
4 States Department of Veterans' Affairs; this assistance
5 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) a certifying
6 official of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
7 certifying, with his or her signature, the United States
8 Department of Veterans Affairs' Application for
9 Accreditation as a Service Organization Representative on
10 behalf of the superintendent and staff of the Veterans
11 Assistance Commission, and (ii) the Illinois Department of
12 Veterans' Affairs filing the Application for Accreditation
13 as a Service Organization Representative with the United
14 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 The Department may accept and hold on behalf of the State,
16 if for the public interest, a grant, gift, devise or bequest of
17 money or property to the Department made for the general
18 benefit of Illinois veterans, including the conduct of
19 informational and training services by the Department and other
20 authorized purposes of the Department. The Department shall
21 cause each grant, gift, devise or bequest to be kept as a
22 distinct fund and shall invest such funds in the manner
23 provided by the Public Funds Investment Act, as now or
24 hereafter amended, and shall make such reports as may be
25 required by the Comptroller concerning what funds are so held
26 and the manner in which such funds are invested. The Department

1 may make grants from these funds for the general benefit of
2 Illinois veterans. Grants from these funds, except for the
3 funds established under Sections 2.01a and 2.03, shall be
4 subject to appropriation.

5 The Department has the power to make grants, from funds
6 appropriated from the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, for
7 benefits authorized under the Survivors Compensation Act.

8 (Source: P.A. 99-314, eff. 8-7-15; 99-576, eff. 7-15-16.)