

# HB3961



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3961

Introduced 11/12/2019, by Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/38

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that the Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force shall meet at least once every 2 months beginning January 1, 2020 (rather than beginning July 1, 2019). Effective immediately.

LRB101 14766 KTG 64068 b

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 38 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)

8 Sec. 38. Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force.

9 (a) The Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force is  
10 created. The Task Force shall review and make recommendations  
11 regarding veterans' service-related ailments that are not  
12 recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
13 including exploring why certain service-related ailments are  
14 not recognized and determining what may be done to have them  
15 recognized.

16 Additionally, the Task Force shall assess ways the State of  
17 Illinois can improve the rate at which disability compensation  
18 claims are approved by the federal government and correct the  
19 disparity between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'  
20 approval of disability compensation for Illinois veterans and  
21 that which is approved for veterans in other states.

22 (b) The Task Force shall have 15 members, comprised as  
23 follows:

1           (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's  
2           designee, who shall serve as chairperson.

3           (2) 2 Members from the House of Representatives,  
4           appointed one each by the Speaker of the House and the  
5           House Minority Leader.

6           (3) 2 Members of the Senate, appointed one each by the  
7           President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader.

8           (4) One veteran, appointed by the Director of Veterans'  
9           Affairs.

10          (5) One medical professional with experience working  
11          with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by  
12          the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

13          (6) 4 representatives from a variety of veterans  
14          organizations representing geographic diversity in the  
15          State, appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

16          (7) 4 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
17          chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House of  
18          Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
19          minority spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee  
20          of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
21          appointed by the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee of  
22          the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
23          minority spokesperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee of  
24          the Senate. Those appointed to the Task Force under this  
25          paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'  
26          Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,

1 and VITAS officials.

2 Task Force members shall serve without compensation but may  
3 be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing their  
4 duties.

5 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least once every 2 months  
6 beginning January 1, 2020 ~~July 1, 2019~~, and at other times as  
7 determined by the Task Force.

8 (d) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide  
9 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

10 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes  
11 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.  
12 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and  
13 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by  
14 December 31, 2020. The Task Force is dissolved, and this  
15 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2021.

16 (Source: P.A. 101-225, eff. 8-9-19.)

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
18 becoming law.