

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)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 on or before June 1, 2020 ~~July 1, 2019~~, and at other
7 times as determined by the Task Force. Task Force members shall
8 select from amongst themselves a chairperson or
9 co-chairpersons at the initial Task Force meeting.

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

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17 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2021.

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

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.