

1 AN ACT concerning military service.

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

4 Section 1. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
5 amended by adding Section 31 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/31 new)

7 Sec. 31. Women Veterans Task Force.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that far too often the
9 sacrifices of women veterans are overlooked. This frequently
10 leads to women veterans being left out of veterans'
11 organizations. In addition, most veterans services are
12 targeted to men. The purpose of this Section is to establish a
13 task force to examine the needs of women veterans with respect
14 to issues including, but not limited to, compensation,
15 rehabilitation, outreach, health care, and issues facing women
16 veterans in the community, and to offer solutions on how best
17 to alleviate these needs.

18 (b) The Women Veterans Task Force is created within the
19 Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Task Force shall be
20 comprised of women veterans appointed as follows:

21 (1) Five members appointed by the Governor.

22 (2) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives.

1 (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 (4) One member appointed by the President of the
4 Senate.

5 (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
6 Senate.

7 (c) Vacancies in the Task Force shall be filled by the
8 initial appointing authority.

9 (d) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
10 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
11 incurred in performing duties associated with the Task Force.

12 (e) The Task Force shall examine the needs of women
13 veterans with respect to issues including, but not limited to,
14 compensation, rehabilitation, outreach, health care, and
15 issues facing women veterans in the community, and offer
16 solutions on how best to meet these needs.

17 (f) By July 1, 2014 and by July 1 of each year thereafter,
18 the Task Force shall present an annual report of its findings
19 to the Governor, the Director of Veterans' Affairs, and the
20 Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

21 (g) If the Task Force becomes inactive on July 1, 2015
22 because active theaters cease, the Director of Veterans'
23 Affairs may reactivate the Task Force if active theaters are
24 reestablished.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.