

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 5. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 20 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/20)

7 Sec. 20. Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force. The  
8 Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force is hereby created  
9 within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Task Force shall  
10 investigate the re-entry process for service members who return  
11 to civilian life after being engaged in an active theater. The  
12 investigation shall include the effects of post-traumatic  
13 stress disorder, homelessness, disabilities, and other issues  
14 the Task Force finds relevant to the re-entry process. For  
15 fiscal year 2012, the Task Force shall include the availability  
16 of prosthetics in its investigation. For fiscal year 2014, the  
17 Task Force shall include the needs of women veterans with  
18 respect to issues including, but not limited to, compensation,  
19 rehabilitation, outreach, health care, and issues facing women  
20 veterans in the community, and to offer recommendations on how  
21 best to alleviate these needs which shall be included in the  
22 Task Force Annual Report for 2014. The Task Force shall include  
23 the following members:

1 (a) a representative of the Department of Veterans  
2 Affairs, who shall chair the committee;

3 (b) a representative from the Department of Military  
4 Affairs;

5 (c) a representative from the Office of the Illinois  
6 Attorney General;

7 (d) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
8 Speaker of the House;

9 (e) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
10 House Minority Leader;

11 (f) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
12 President of the Senate;

13 (g) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
14 Senate Minority Leader;

15 (h) 4 members chosen by the Department of Veterans  
16 Affairs, who shall represent statewide veterans'  
17 organizations or veterans' homeless shelters;

18 (i) one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;  
19 and

20 (j) a representative of the United States Department of  
21 Veterans Affairs shall be invited to participate.

22 Vacancies in the Task Force shall be filled by the initial  
23 appointing authority. Task Force members shall serve without  
24 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
25 incurred in performing duties associated with the Task Force.

26 By July 1, 2008 and by July 1 of each year thereafter, the

1 Task Force shall present an annual report of its findings to  
2 the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of Veterans'  
3 Affairs, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary of the  
4 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

5 If the Task Force becomes inactive because active theaters  
6 cease, the Director of Veterans Affairs may reactivate the Task  
7 Force if active theaters are reestablished.

8 (Source: P.A. 97-414, eff. 1-1-12.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
10 becoming law.