



Sen. Julie A. Morrison

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10400SB0636sam001

LRB104 06914 KTG 24849 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 636

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 636 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 9 as follows:

6 (330 ILCS 45/9) (from Ch. 23, par. 3089)

7 Sec. 9. Veterans Assistance Commission.

8 (a) In counties having 2 or more veteran service
9 organizations as may be recognized by law, the veteran service
10 organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance
11 Commission of such county. The Veterans Assistance Commission
12 of such county may act as the central service office for all
13 veterans and their families and for the families of deceased
14 veterans. The Commission shall be composed of delegates and
15 alternates from a majority of such veteran service
16 organizations selected annually as determined by each veteran

1 service organization. When so organized a Commission shall be
2 clothed with all the powers and may be charged with all the
3 duties theretofore devolving upon the different veteran
4 service organizations within the county as provided in Section
5 2.

6 (1) Every January 1, all Veterans Assistance
7 Commissions shall publish a notice to each veteran service
8 organization within their respective county calling on
9 them to select delegates and alternates for that county's
10 Veterans Assistance Commission by the methods provided in
11 this subsection. The Veterans Assistance Commissions shall
12 allow each veteran service organization until March 1 to
13 respond, at which time those selected and duly appointed
14 delegates and alternates shall begin their term of office
15 with full voting rights. Once selected, delegates and
16 alternates are bound by the Public Officer Prohibited
17 Activities Act.

18 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), veteran
19 service organizations shall be permitted to select one
20 delegate and one alternate.

21 (3) In counties with 5 or more of the same veteran
22 service organizations, all the constituent veteran service
23 organizations shall be permitted to select up to 5
24 delegates and 5 alternates to represent that veteran
25 service organization instead of each constituent veteran
26 service organization selecting one delegate and one

1 alternate. For the purposes of meeting the majority
2 requirement of this subsection, when the constituent
3 groups of a veteran service organization choose to select
4 those delegates and alternates, those selected and duly
5 appointed delegates and alternates shall represent the
6 aggregate percentage of the constituent groups.

7 (4) If a veteran service organization serves more than
8 one county, then it shall be permitted to select one
9 delegate and one alternate for the Veterans Assistance
10 Commission in each county in which at least 25% of its
11 members reside.

12 (5) All undertakings of, or actions taken by, the
13 Commission shall require a vote from a majority of the
14 full commission membership. No committee or other subgroup
15 of delegates and alternates formed by the Commission,
16 whether selected or appointed, may be granted the power or
17 authority to act in the place of or on behalf of the full
18 body of the duly selected or appointed Commission
19 membership.

20 (6) No superintendent or any other employee of the
21 Veterans Assistance Commission may retain the position of
22 delegate or alternate or any voting rights while employed
23 by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

24 (7) No committee or other subgroup of delegates and
25 alternates formed by the Commission, whether selected or
26 appointed, may bar any other duly appointed Commission

1 member from attending or otherwise being present during
2 any closed meetings or sessions of that committee or
3 group.

4 (8) (A) The county ~~shall~~ may, ~~at its discretion,~~
5 appoint a representative to the Commission by unanimous
6 vote of the county board to serve a term of 4 years. If a
7 vacancy occurs, the county board shall appoint another
8 veteran to the Commission to fill out the remainder of the
9 term ~~who may attend any public meeting of the Commission.~~

10 (B) The county appointee ~~That representative~~ shall be
11 a veteran and shall ~~, may not~~ have voting rights, except in
12 those matters that may produce a conflict of interest,
13 such as the closed session meetings of the Commission to
14 discuss possible litigation against the county. The
15 Commission shall determine by majority vote any other
16 matters that may produce a conflict of interest.

17 (C) The county appointee may not hold any office or
18 title on the Commission~~,~~ and may not be present during any
19 nonpublic meeting of the Commission, except as authorized
20 in this Act. For matters of executive session, the
21 ~~non-voting~~ county appointee may attend meetings that are
22 closed in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (5), (6),
23 or (11) of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Open Meetings
24 Act and for litigation matters not relating to litigation
25 between the Commission and the County.

26 (D) As provided in subsection (a) of Section 10, the

1 executive powers of the Commission are vested in the duly
2 appointed superintendent and nothing in this Section shall
3 be construed to require the county appointee to provide
4 reports to the county board during open or closed sessions
5 of any county board hearings. The county board shall
6 invite the superintendent to present official updates of
7 the Commission to the county board. Nothing in this
8 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly shall be
9 interpreted to abrogate or diminish any of the powers or
10 authority of the Commission or the superintendent as
11 established by this Act.

12 (b) The Commission and its selected or appointed
13 superintendent shall have oversight of the distribution of all
14 moneys and supplies appropriated for the benefit of military
15 veterans and their families, subject to such rules,
16 regulations, administrative procedures or audit reviews as are
17 required by this Act and as are necessary as approved by the
18 Commission to carry out the spirit and intent of this Act. No
19 warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for the
20 payment of money without the presentation of an itemized
21 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the
22 Commission.

23 (c) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance
24 Commission, selected, appointed, or hired by the Commission is
25 an at-will employee who shall be answerable to, and shall
26 report to, the Commission.

1 (d) The superintendent shall be evaluated annually and a
2 written report shall be generated. A copy of the report from
3 the evaluation shall be provided to the entire Commission
4 membership.

5 (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after
6 delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service
7 organizations file a written request calling for the
8 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of
9 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

10 (f) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall establish
11 and maintain bylaws that outline the framework, policies, and
12 procedures for conducting the business of the Commission and
13 for the rules and regulations that apply to its members. Those
14 bylaws shall reflect compliance with all relevant laws at the
15 time they are established and shall be revised as necessary to
16 remain in compliance with current law. The establishment of
17 those bylaws, and any revisions thereafter, shall require a
18 minimum two-thirds majority vote of approval from a majority
19 of the full Commission membership.

20 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,
21 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place
22 in its respective county, including, but not limited to,
23 policies related to compensation, employee rights, ethics,
24 procurement, and budget, and shall adapt those policies to fit
25 its organizational structure. Those policies shall then be
26 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission

1 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by
2 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall
3 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an
4 applicable policy within 60 days of the county board
5 amendment.

6 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for
7 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized
8 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the
9 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership.

10 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an
11 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit
12 Act using either the auditing services provided by its
13 respective county or the services of an independent auditor
14 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of
15 that audit report shall be provided to the president or
16 chairperson of the county board. If a Veterans Assistance
17 Commission fails to provide a copy of the audit report to the
18 president or chairperson of the county board, then the
19 president or chairperson of the county board may request
20 assistance from the Office of the Attorney General to enforce
21 this requirement.

22 (j) Veterans Assistance Commissions and county boards
23 subject to this Act shall cooperate fully with the boards,
24 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the
25 State. The funds held and made available by the county, the
26 State, or any other source shall be subject to financial and

1 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State
2 Auditing Act.

3 (k) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall be in charge
4 of the administration of any benefits provided under Articles
5 VI and IX of the Illinois Public Aid Code for military veterans
6 and their families.

7 (l) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall represent
8 veterans in their application for or attempts to obtain
9 benefits and services through State and federal agencies,
10 including representing veterans in their appeals of adverse
11 decisions.

12 (m) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance
13 Commission and its employees must comply with the procedures
14 and regulations adopted by the Veterans Assistance Commission
15 and the regulations of the Department of Human Services.

16 (n) To further the intent of this Act of assisting
17 military veterans, this Act is to be construed so that the
18 Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide needed services
19 to eligible veterans.

20 (Source: P.A. 102-484, eff. 8-20-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;
21 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect March 1,
23 2026."