



**Sen. Julie A. Morrison**

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10400SB2018sam001

LRB104 10452 KTG 22931 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2018

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 2018 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 who may  
7 ~~attend any public meeting of the Commission.~~ That  
8 representative shall be a veteran and shall ~~may not~~ have  
9 voting rights, except in those matters that may produce a  
10 conflict of interest, such as the closed session meetings  
11 of the Commission to discuss possible litigation against  
12 the county. If a vacancy occurs, the County Board shall  
13 appoint another veteran to the Commission to fill out the  
14 remainder of the term.

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

24 (C) As provided in subsection (a) of Section 10, the  
25 executive powers are vested in the duly appointed  
26 superintendent and nothing in this Section shall be

1                   construed to require the county appointee to provide  
2                   reports to the County Board during open or closed sessions  
3                   of any County Board hearings. The County Board shall  
4                   invite the superintendent to present official updates of  
5                   the Commission to the County Board.

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

17                   (c) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
18                   Commission, selected, appointed, or hired by the Commission is  
19                   an at-will employee who shall be answerable to, and shall  
20                   report to, the Commission.

21                   (d) The superintendent shall be evaluated annually and a  
22                   written report shall be generated. A copy of the report from  
23                   the evaluation shall be provided to the entire Commission  
24                   membership.

25                   (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after  
26                   delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service

1 organizations file a written request calling for the  
2 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of  
3 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

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

14 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,  
15 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place  
16 in its respective county, including, but not limited to,  
17 policies related to compensation, employee rights, ethics,  
18 procurement, and budget, and shall adapt those policies to fit  
19 its organizational structure. Those policies shall then be  
20 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission  
21 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by  
22 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall  
23 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an  
24 applicable policy within 60 days of the county board  
25 amendment.

26 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for

1 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized  
2 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the  
3 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership.

4 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an  
5 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit  
6 Act using either the auditing services provided by its  
7 respective county or the services of an independent auditor  
8 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of  
9 that audit report shall be provided to the president or  
10 chairperson of the county board.

11 (j) Veterans Assistance Commissions and county boards  
12 subject to this Act shall cooperate fully with the boards,  
13 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the  
14 State. The funds held and made available by the county, the  
15 State, or any other source shall be subject to financial and  
16 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State  
17 Auditing Act.

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

22 (l) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall represent  
23 veterans in their application for or attempts to obtain  
24 benefits and services through State and federal agencies,  
25 including representing veterans in their appeals of adverse  
26 decisions.

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

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

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

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect March 1, 6.".