

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB3646**

Introduced 2/5/2026, by Sen. Mike Porfirio

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Expands the Act to permit the creation of Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commissions (JVAC) in counties that did not have a Veterans Assistance Commission prior to January 1, 2026, and in which there exists a judicial circuit whose jurisdictional boundaries include multiple counties. Provides that veteran service organizations located within any of those counties that are within the judicial circuit's jurisdictional boundaries may come together and create a JVAC that shall provide services to veterans and their families and shall be known as the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of that judicial circuit. Contains provisions on the selection process for the JVAC superintendent and delegates; and other matters. Expands the Act to provide assistance for military veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States, as defined, and did not receive a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent discharge. Provides that if a supervisor of general assistance or county board fails or refuses to provide assistance recommended by the assistance committee of a veterans service organization, VAC, or JVAC, then the veterans service organization, VAC, or JVAC may request that all parties involved enter into an arbitration agreement. Permits any person who is eligible for assistance under the Act to bring a civil action against the county for failing or refusing to provide such assistance. Prohibits the disbursement or transfer of VAC or JVAC funding to any not-for-profit corporation or any other such organization. Contains provisions on annual voting reporting requirements; mandatory training for VAC and JVAC delegates and alternates; a prohibition on a VAC or JVAC establishing or operating a not-for-profit corporation that has a name substantially similar to the name of the VAC or JVAC; permission to receive gifts or donations in furtherance of veterans' interests; benefits for VAC and JVAC employees; the establishment of a Veterans Assistance Provost within the Office of the Attorney General; audit reports; and other matters.

LRB104 17695 KTG 31126 b

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

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

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by changing
5 Section 5-2006 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/5-2006) (from Ch. 34, par. 5-2006)

7 Sec. 5-2006. Tax for Veterans Assistance Commission. The
8 county board of each county having a population of less than 3
9 million in which there is a Veterans Assistance Commission as
10 provided in Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act
11 may levy a tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value
12 annually on all taxable property of the county, for the
13 purpose of providing assistance to military veterans and their
14 families pursuant to such Act. Whenever not less than 10% of
15 the electors of the county petition the county board to levy
16 the tax at not to exceed .04% of the assessed value, the county
17 board shall certify the proposition to the proper election
18 officials who shall submit the proposition at the next general
19 election in accordance with the general election law. If a
20 majority of the electors vote in favor of the proposition, the
21 county board may, annually, levy the tax as authorized.

22 The county board of each county that has a population of
23 less than 3,000,000 and that is a participant in a

1 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission as provided in
2 Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act may levy a
3 tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value annually on all
4 taxable property of the county for the purpose of providing
5 assistance to military veterans and their families pursuant to
6 such Act. The proceeds from this tax for a Jurisdictional
7 Veterans Assistance Commission shall be directed into the
8 county treasury of the county where the Jurisdictional
9 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered.

10 The respective proceeds of any tax so levied for a
11 Veterans Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional Veterans
12 Assistance Commission shall be used exclusively for the
13 assistance purposes authorized thereunder, and a portion
14 thereof may be expended for the salaries of any officers or
15 employees of the Veterans Assistance Commission, for the
16 authorized reimbursement of any officer or employee of the
17 Veterans Assistance Commission, as provided in Section 10 of
18 the Military Veterans Assistance Act, or for any other
19 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance.

20 The tax shall be separate from all other taxes which the
21 county is authorized to levy on the aggregate valuation of the
22 property within the county and shall not be included in any tax
23 limitation of the rate upon which taxes are required to be
24 extended, but shall be excluded therefrom and in addition
25 thereto. The tax shall be levied and collected in like manner
26 as the general taxes of the county, and, when collected, shall

1 be paid into a special fund in the county treasury and used
2 only as herein authorized, or disbursed from the county
3 treasury of a county in which a properly organized Veterans
4 Assistance Commission is authorized under Section 3-11008 of
5 this Code.

6 The limitations on tax rates herein provided may be
7 increased or decreased under the referendum provisions of the
8 General Revenue Law of Illinois.

9 If a county has levied the tax herein authorized or
10 otherwise meets the conditions set out in Section 12-21.13 of
11 the Illinois Public Aid Code, to qualify for State funds to
12 supplement local funds for public purposes under Articles III,
13 IV, V, VI, and IX of that Code and otherwise meets the
14 conditions set out in Article XII of that Code for receipt of
15 State aid, the Illinois Department of Human Services shall
16 allocate and pay to the county such additional sums as it
17 determines to be necessary to meet the needs of assistance to
18 military veterans and their families in the county and
19 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance. In
20 counties where a Veterans Assistance Commission has been
21 properly created, those County Veterans Assistance Commissions
22 shall be in charge of the administration of such assistance
23 provided under the Illinois Public Aid Code for military
24 veterans and their families.

25 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 Section 10. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
2 changing Section 12-21.13 as follows:

3 (305 ILCS 5/12-21.13) (from Ch. 23, par. 12-21.13)

4 Sec. 12-21.13. Local funds required to qualify for state
5 aid. To qualify for State funds to supplement local funds for
6 public aid purposes, a local governmental unit shall, except
7 as hereinafter provided, levy within the time that such levy
8 is authorized to be made a tax of an amount which, when added
9 to the unobligated balance available for such purposes at the
10 close of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which
11 the tax is levied will equal .10% of the last known total
12 equalized value of all taxable property in the governmental
13 unit.

14 In a county of less than 3 million population in which
15 there is created a County Veterans Assistance Commission, the
16 county shall levy for assistance to military veterans and
17 their families, within the time that such levy is authorized
18 to be made, a tax of an amount which, when added to the
19 unobligated balance available for such purpose at the close of
20 the preceding fiscal year will equal .02% of the last known
21 assessed value of the taxable property in the county, or which
22 will equal .03% of such assessed value if such higher amount is
23 authorized by the electors of the county, as provided in
24 Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code.

25 In a county that has a population of less than 3,000,000

1 and that is a participant in a Jurisdictional Veterans
2 Assistance Commission, the county shall levy for assistance to
3 military veterans and their families, within the time that
4 such levy is authorized to be made, a tax of an amount which,
5 when added to the unobligated balance available for such
6 purpose at the close of the preceding fiscal year, equals .02%
7 of the last known assessed value of the taxable property in the
8 county. The proceeds from this tax for a Jurisdictional
9 Veterans Assistance Commission shall be directed into the
10 county treasury of the county where the Jurisdictional
11 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered.

12 If, however, at the latest date in the year on which the
13 aforesaid taxes are authorized to be levied there is in the
14 unobligated balance of the local governmental unit an amount
15 equal to .10%, or .02% in the case of Veterans' Assistance, of
16 the last known total equalized value of all taxable property
17 in the governmental unit, then no tax need be levied in that
18 year in order for the local governmental unit to qualify for
19 State funds.

20 In determining the amount of the unobligated balance which
21 is to be applied in producing the required levy for receipt of
22 State funds, or which is to be applied in determining whether a
23 tax levy is required, there shall be deducted from the gross
24 unobligated balance of funds available at the close of the
25 preceding fiscal year the total amount of State funds
26 allocated to the governmental unit during that year and the

1 total amount of any monies transferred to a township's general
2 town fund under Section 235-20 of the Township Code during
3 that year, and only the remainder shall be considered in
4 determining the amount of the deficiency needed to produce an
5 amount equal to the qualifying levy for the current year.

6 (Source: P.A. 87-796; 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

7 Section 15. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is
8 amended by changing Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 9.1, 9.2, and 10 and
9 by adding Section 9.3 as follows:

10 (330 ILCS 45/1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3081)

11 Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

12 "Veteran service organization" means a post, ship, camp,
13 chapter, or detachment of a congressionally chartered or state
14 chartered organization that (i) is formed by and for veterans,
15 (ii) has a paid membership of at least 15 individuals, and
16 (iii) provides responsible aid, assistance, or services to the
17 veteran community.

18 "Administrator of military veterans assistance" means the
19 commanders of the various veteran service organizations, the
20 superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission, or
21 other persons whose duty it is, under the existing statutes,
22 to care for, relieve or maintain, wholly or in part, any person
23 who may be entitled to such assistance under the statutes of
24 the State of Illinois. This Act shall not infringe upon the

1 mandated powers and authorities vested in the Illinois
2 Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 "Armed forces" or "armed forces of the United States"
4 means any of the Armed Forces of the United States, including
5 any reserve component or National Guard unit. Service under
6 the authority of U.S.C. Title 10, 14, or 32, State active duty,
7 service in the National Guard of any state or territory
8 regardless of status, and service in the State Guard as
9 defined in the State Guard Act shall be considered service in
10 the armed forces and armed forces of the United States for
11 purposes of this Act.

12 "Military veteran" or "veteran" means a person who has
13 served in the armed forces and who did not receive a bad
14 conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent
15 discharge.

16 (Source: P.A. 104-234, eff. 8-15-25.)

17 (330 ILCS 45/2) (from Ch. 23, par. 3082)

18 Sec. 2. The purpose of this Act is, in part, to provide, in
19 accordance with this Section, just and necessary assistance
20 and services to military veterans who served in the Armed
21 Forces of the United States ~~and whose last discharge from the~~
22 ~~service was honorable or general under honorable conditions,~~
23 to their families, and to the families of deceased veterans
24 with service who need such assistance and services. The
25 following actions shall be taken in support of that purpose:

1 (1) The supervisor of general assistance or the county
2 board shall annually appropriate and provide such sums of
3 money as may be just and necessary to be drawn by the
4 commander, quartermaster or commandant of any veterans
5 service organization, in the city or town, or the
6 superintendent of any Veterans' Assistance Commission of
7 the county, upon the request ~~recommendation~~ of the
8 assistance committee of that veterans service organization
9 or Veterans' Assistance Commission.

10 (A) Funding for Veterans Assistance Commissions
11 may be derived from 3 sources, if applicable:

12 (i) a tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the
13 Counties Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois
14 Public Aid Code;

15 (ii) funds from the county general corporate
16 fund; and

17 (iii) State funds from the Department of Human
18 Services.

19 (B) The minimum amount to be appropriated and
20 provided annually and paid on behalf of ~~to~~ Veterans
21 Assistance Commissions in counties with a population
22 of less than 3,000,000 is 0.02% of the last known
23 assessed value of the taxable property in the county
24 or 0.03% of such assessed value if such higher amount
25 has been authorized for levy by the electors of the
26 county as ~~is~~ provided in Section 12-21.13 of the

1 Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the delegates of the
2 County Veterans Assistance Commission determine that a
3 lesser amount covers the just and necessary sums. The
4 minimum amount required under this Section to be
5 appropriated and provided annually to Veterans
6 Assistance Commissions is equal to the amount required
7 under Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code
8 concerning the qualification for supplemental State
9 funds. The changes made to this subparagraph by this
10 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly are a
11 declaration of existing law and shall not be construed
12 as a new enactment.

13 (1.5) The supervisor of general assistance or the
14 county board of a county in which a Jurisdictional
15 Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered shall
16 provide such sums of money as may be just and necessary to
17 be drawn by the superintendent of the Jurisdictional
18 Veterans Assistance Commission headquartered in that
19 county, upon the recommendation of the delegates of the
20 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission. Each
21 participating county of a Jurisdictional Veterans
22 Assistance Commission shall fund the Jurisdictional
23 Veterans Assistance Commission in accordance with this
24 Section. Participating counties shall provide the support
25 and materials required to administer a Jurisdictional
26 Veterans Assistance Commission in the same manner

1 individual counties are required under this Act to provide
2 support and materials to single-county Veterans Assistance
3 Commissions.

4 (A) Funding for Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
5 Commissions may be derived from a tax levied under
6 Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and Section
7 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code.

8 (B) The minimum amount to be appropriated and
9 provided annually and paid on behalf of Jurisdictional
10 Veterans Assistance Commissions is provided in Section
11 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the
12 delegates of the Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
13 Commission determine that a lesser amount covers the
14 just and necessary sums.

15 (2) If any supervisor of general assistance or county
16 board fails or refuses after such request ~~recommendation~~
17 to provide just and necessary sums of money for such
18 assistance, then the veterans service organization or
19 Veterans Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional
20 Veterans Assistance Commission may request that all
21 parties involved enter into an arbitration agreement.
22 Arbitrators shall be appointed in accordance with the
23 appointment provisions in Section 3 of the Uniform
24 Arbitration Act. Arbitrators shall confer with the
25 Veterans Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of the
26 Attorney General, prior to the issuing of any award under

1 this Act. If both parties do not agree to arbitration,
2 then the veteran service organization or the
3 superintendent of any Veterans ~~Veterans~~ Assistance
4 Commission located in the district of such supervisor of
5 general assistance or such county board or the
6 superintendent of any Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
7 Commission headquartered in the district of such
8 supervisor of general assistance or such county board
9 shall apply to the circuit court of the district or county
10 for relief by mandamus upon the supervisor of general
11 assistance or county board requiring him, her or it to
12 pay, or to appropriate and pay such sums of money, and upon
13 proof made of the justice and necessity of the claim, the
14 circuit court shall grant the sums so requested and may
15 enter an order requiring the county board to pay
16 attorney's fees and an additional amount equal to or less
17 than the sum of interest of the Veterans Assistance
18 Commission's or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
19 Commission's initial request having accrued at the rate of
20 1% per month beginning on the month that the Veterans
21 Assistance Commission's or Jurisdictional Veterans
22 Assistance Commission's initial request was submitted to
23 the supervisor of general assistance or the county board.

24 (2.5) Any person eligible for assistance under this
25 Act who does not receive such assistance after a
26 supervisor of general assistance or county board fails or

1 refuses to provide the just and necessary sums of money to
2 fund a Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional
3 Veterans Assistance Commission may bring a civil action
4 against the county to seek redress under this Section.

5 (3) Such sums of money shall be drawn in the manner now
6 provided under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and
7 Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Orders
8 of commanders, quartermasters, commandants, or
9 superintendents of those veterans service organizations or
10 those Veterans ~~Veterans~~ Assistance Commissions or those
11 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commissions shall be
12 proper warrants for the expenditure of such sums of money
13 and no county may refuse to make payment on such a warrant.

14 (4) Funding for a Veterans Assistance Commission or
15 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission granted
16 under this Section may not be disbursed to or transferred
17 from the Commission to any not-for-profit corporation or
18 any other entity of any type for the purpose of relegating
19 the responsibilities of the Veterans Assistance Commission
20 or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission under
21 this Act to the not-for-profit corporation or other
22 entity. Funding for a Veterans Assistance Commission or
23 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission granted
24 under this Section may not be commingled with other
25 monies.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 (330 ILCS 45/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 3088)

2 Sec. 8. The commander, quartermaster, or commandant of any
3 veteran service organization ~~or the superintendent of any~~
4 ~~county Veterans' Assistance Commission~~ of Illinois shall
5 annually report to the Governor, on or before the first day of
6 January of each year, such portions of the transactions of the
7 aforementioned veteran service organization ~~or Veterans~~
8 ~~Assistance Commission~~ relating thereto as the commander ~~or~~
9 ~~superintendent~~ may deem to be of interest to that organization
10 and the people of the State. A copy of that report shall be
11 provided to the president or chairperson of the county board
12 and shall be made publicly available online.

13 The superintendent of every Veterans Assistance Commission
14 and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall
15 annually report to the Governor, on or before the first day of
16 January of each year, a summary of all minutes and voting
17 results of the Veterans Assistance Commission or
18 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission from the
19 previous year. Upon receipt of the report, or as soon
20 thereafter as is practicable, the Office of the Governor shall
21 submit a written confirmation of receipt to the superintendent
22 of the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional
23 Veterans Assistance Commission that includes a statement on
24 whether the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional
25 Veterans Assistance Commission is in compliance with all

1 reporting requirements under this paragraph. A copy of the
2 annual report and the confirmation receipt shall be provided
3 to the Office of the Attorney General and to the president or
4 chairperson of the county board in which the Veterans
5 Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
6 Commission is headquartered. The annual report and
7 confirmation receipt shall also be made publicly available
8 online. For these purposes every Veterans Assistance
9 Commission and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission
10 shall maintain a website or webpage as part of its respective
11 county's official website.

12 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23; 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

13 (330 ILCS 45/9) (from Ch. 23, par. 3089)

14 Sec. 9. Veterans Assistance Commission.

15 (a) In counties having 2 or more veteran service
16 organizations as may be recognized by law, the veteran service
17 organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance
18 Commission of such county. The Veterans Assistance Commission
19 of such county may act as the central service office for all
20 veterans and their families and for the families of deceased
21 veterans. The Commission shall be composed of delegates and
22 alternates from a majority of such veteran service
23 organizations selected annually as determined by each veteran
24 service organization. When so organized a Commission shall be
25 clothed with all the powers and may be charged with all the

1 duties theretofore devolving upon the different veteran
2 service organizations within the county as provided in Section
3 2.

4 (1) Every January 1, all Veterans Assistance
5 Commissions shall publish a notice to each veteran service
6 organization within their respective county calling on
7 them to select delegates and alternates for that county's
8 Veterans Assistance Commission by the methods provided in
9 this subsection. The Veterans Assistance Commissions shall
10 allow each veteran service organization until March 1 to
11 respond, at which time those selected and duly appointed
12 delegates and alternates shall begin their term of office
13 with full voting rights. However, if any delegate or
14 alternate fails to complete the training required under
15 the Open Meetings Act within 90 days after beginning their
16 term of service, then that delegate or alternate shall be
17 stripped of any voting rights until that delegate or
18 alternate completes the training. Once selected, delegates
19 and alternates are bound by the Public Officer Prohibited
20 Activities Act. Within 30 days after the delegates and
21 alternates are seated, each Veterans Assistance Commission
22 shall publish electronically on its website, or on a
23 designated webpage of its county's official website, the
24 name of each delegate and alternate along with each
25 delegate's and alternate's corresponding veteran service
26 organization.

1 (1.5) Each duly appointed delegate and alternate must
2 successfully complete an online electronic training
3 curriculum, developed and administered by the Veterans
4 Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of the Attorney
5 General, within 30 days after the delegate or alternate is
6 seated. Each delegate or alternate successfully completing
7 the electronic training curriculum shall file a copy of
8 the affirmation and certificate of completion with the
9 Veterans Assistance Commission. If any delegate or
10 alternate fails to complete the training required under
11 this paragraph, within 30 days after beginning his or her
12 term of service, then that delegate or alternate shall be
13 stripped of any voting rights until that delegate or
14 alternate completes the training and affirmation.

15 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), veteran
16 service organizations shall be permitted to select one
17 delegate and one alternate.

18 (3) In counties with 5 or more of the same veteran
19 service organizations, all the constituent veteran service
20 organizations shall be permitted to select up to 5
21 delegates and 5 alternates to represent that veteran
22 service organization instead of each constituent veteran
23 service organization selecting one delegate and one
24 alternate. For the purposes of meeting the majority
25 requirement of this subsection, when the constituent
26 groups of a veteran service organization choose to select

1 those delegates and alternates, those selected and duly
2 appointed delegates and alternates shall represent the
3 aggregate percentage of the constituent groups.

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

9 (4.5) Within 30 days after the delegates and
10 alternates are seated, each Veterans Assistance Commission
11 shall publish electronically on its website or on the
12 webpage of its county's website the name of each delegate
13 and alternate along with the Commission's corresponding
14 veteran service organization, the name of the commander,
15 quartermaster, or commandant of that veteran service
16 organization, and the mailing address of that veteran
17 service organization.

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

26 (6) No superintendent or any other employee of the

1 Veterans Assistance Commission may retain the position of
2 delegate or alternate or any voting rights while employed
3 by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

4 (7) No committee or other subgroup of delegates and
5 alternates formed by the Commission, whether selected or
6 appointed, may bar any other duly appointed Commission
7 member from attending or otherwise being present during
8 any closed meetings or sessions of that committee or
9 group.

10 (8) The county may, at its discretion, appoint a
11 representative to the Commission who may attend any public
12 meeting of the Commission. That representative shall be a
13 veteran, may not have voting rights, may not hold any
14 office or title on the Commission, and may not be present
15 during any nonpublic meeting of the Commission, except as
16 authorized in this Act. For matters of executive session,
17 the non-voting county appointee may attend meetings that
18 are closed in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (5),
19 (6), or (11) of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Open
20 Meetings Act for litigation matters not relating to
21 litigation between the Commission and the County.

22 (9) A Veterans Assistance Commission may not establish
23 or operate a not-for-profit corporation that has a
24 substantially similar name to that of the Veterans
25 Assistance Commission.

26 (10) A Veterans Assistance Commission may receive any

1 unsolicited gift, grant, donation, or legacy made for the
2 purpose of assisting veterans or in furtherance of such
3 interests. Any such unsolicited gift, grant, donation, or
4 legacy shall be subject to reporting and auditing
5 requirements as mandated by law.

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. No county may refuse to process and pay a warrant
17 issued in accordance with this Act.

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

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

26 (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after

1 delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service
2 organizations file a written request calling for the
3 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of
4 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal. If a
5 Commission is comprised of only 2 veteran service
6 organizations, then the superintendent may be removed from
7 office if, after delegates from both veteran service
8 organizations file a written request calling for the
9 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of
10 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

11 An employee of the Commission, other than the
12 superintendent, may be removed from the employee's position
13 if, after the superintendent has brought such removal action
14 before the Commission for consideration, there is a vote from
15 a majority of the full Commission membership in favor of such
16 removal.

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

1 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,
2 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place
3 in its respective county. Such policies must include, but are
4 ~~, including, but~~ not limited to, policies related to
5 compensation, employee rights, ethics, procurement, financial
6 assistance, donations, and budget, and shall adapt those
7 policies to fit its organizational structure and needs as
8 determined in the sole discretion of the Commission. The
9 adapted policies must be reasonably similar to the
10 corresponding county policies. Those policies shall then be
11 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission
12 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by
13 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall
14 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an
15 applicable policy within 90 ~~60~~ days of the county board
16 amendment. However, nothing in this subsection shall be
17 construed to permit a county or its policies to control a
18 Veteran Assistance Commission's operations.

19 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for
20 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized
21 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the
22 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership. No
23 county may refuse payment on such a warrant after approval of
24 the itemized statement or claim by the superintendent.

25 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an
26 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit

1 Act using either the auditing services provided by its
2 respective county or the services of an independent auditor
3 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of
4 that audit report shall be provided to the Veterans Assistance
5 Provost on behalf of the Attorney General and the president or
6 chairperson of the county board of the Commission's respective
7 county. The audit report shall also be made publicly available
8 online. For these purposes the Veterans Assistance Commission
9 shall maintain a website or webpage as part of its respective
10 county's official website.

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.

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

5 (n) To further the intent of this Act of assisting
6 military veterans, this Act is to be construed so that the
7 Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide needed services
8 to eligible veterans. Such services shall include the
9 provision of assistance as set forth in this Act and the
10 Illinois Public Aid Code.

11 (o) (1) In counties that did not have a Veterans Assistance
12 Commission prior to January 1, 2026, and in which there exists
13 a judicial circuit whose jurisdictional boundaries include
14 multiple counties, veteran service organizations located
15 within any of those counties that are within the judicial
16 circuit's jurisdictional boundaries may come together and
17 create a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission that
18 shall provide services to veterans and their families. The
19 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall be known
20 as the Veterans Assistance Commission of that judicial
21 circuit.

22 (2) The superintendent of a Jurisdictional Veterans
23 Assistance Commission formed in accordance with paragraph (1)
24 shall be selected from among all honorably discharged veterans
25 of all participating counties within that judicial circuit's
26 boundaries and shall maintain a centrally located office

1 within that judicial circuit. However, for a Jurisdictional
2 Veterans Assistance Commission formed within a large judicial
3 circuit, the superintendent is not precluded from having
4 multiple offices that shall be owned and maintained by the
5 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission.

6 (3) Delegates and alternates shall be selected by the
7 veterans service organizations of that judicial circuit in the
8 same manner as prescribed in paragraph (1) of subsection (a)
9 and shall be subject to the online electronic training
10 requirements imposed on delegates and alternates appointed to
11 a single-county Veterans Assistance Commission as prescribed
12 in paragraph (1.5) of subsection (a).

13 (4) Every Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission
14 must publish electronically on its website the name of each
15 appointed delegate and alternate as prescribed in paragraph
16 (4.5) of subsection (a) for single-county Veterans Assistance
17 Commissions.

18 (5) Every Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission
19 shall be subject to the same prohibitions, standards,
20 discretionary authority, and other requirements single-county
21 Veterans Assistance Commissions are subject to under this
22 Section unless otherwise provided.

23 (6) Any existing Veterans Assistance Commission that is
24 part of a judicial circuit that is comprised of multiple
25 counties, as of January 1, 2025, may merge into a Veterans
26 Assistance Commission of that judicial circuit with its

1 neighboring counties. Those existing Veterans Assistance
2 Commissions that choose not to merge may continue to exist
3 independently while the other counties combine to form a new
4 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission of that judicial
5 circuit.

6 (7) Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 104th General
7 Assembly shall be interpreted to restrict any Jurisdictional
8 Veterans Assistance Commissions from providing services to
9 veterans and their families who reside outside of those
10 participating counties.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-484, eff. 8-20-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;
12 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

13 (330 ILCS 45/9.1)

14 Sec. 9.1. Violations.

15 (a) If the Attorney General has reasonable cause to
16 believe that there is or has been a violation of Section 2, 8,
17 ~~or 9,~~ or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10,~~ then the
18 Attorney General shall be empowered to issue and cause to be
19 served on any person or entity an order to cease and desist
20 from further violation of this Act. The Attorney General may
21 also commence a civil action in the name of the People of the
22 State to enforce the provisions of this Act in any appropriate
23 circuit court. The court, in its discretion, may exercise all
24 powers necessary, including, but not limited to: injunction;
25 mandamus; revocation; forfeiture or suspension of any funding,

1 rights, privileges, responsibilities, or support, as deemed
2 necessary to ensure compliance; and any other action the court
3 may deem appropriate.

4 (b) Prior to initiating a civil action, the Attorney
5 General shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine
6 whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation
7 is being or has been committed and whether the dispute can be
8 resolved without litigation. In conducting this investigation,
9 the Attorney General may:

10 (1) require the individual, group, or entity to file a
11 statement or report in writing under oath or otherwise, as
12 to all information the Attorney General may consider
13 necessary;

14 (2) examine under oath any person alleged to have
15 participated in or with knowledge of the alleged
16 violation;

17 (3) issue subpoenas or conduct hearings in aid of any
18 investigation; or

19 (4) examine any record, book, document, account, or
20 paper as the Attorney General may consider necessary.

21 (c) Service by the Attorney General of any notice
22 requiring a person to file a statement or report, or of a
23 subpoena upon any person, shall be made:

24 (1) personally by delivery of a duly executed copy
25 thereof to the person to be served or, if a person is not a
26 natural person, in the manner provided by the Code of

1 Civil Procedure when a complaint is filed; or

2 (2) by mailing by certified mail a duly executed copy
3 thereof to the person to be served at the person's last
4 known abode or principal place of business within this
5 State.

6 (d) Whenever any person fails to comply with any subpoena
7 issued under this Section or whenever satisfactory copying or
8 reproduction of any material requested in an investigation
9 cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the
10 material, the Attorney General may file in any appropriate
11 circuit court, and serve upon the person, a petition for a
12 court order for the enforcement of the subpoena or other
13 request.

14 Any person who has received a subpoena issued under
15 subsection (b) may file in the appropriate circuit court, and
16 serve upon the Attorney General, a petition for a court order
17 to modify or set aside the subpoena or other request. The
18 petition must be filed either: (1) within 20 days after the
19 date of service of the subpoena or at any time before the
20 return date specified in the subpoena, whichever date is
21 earlier, or (2) within a longer period as may be prescribed in
22 writing by the Attorney General.

23 The petition shall specify each ground upon which the
24 petitioner relies in seeking relief under this subsection and
25 may be based upon any failure of the subpoena to comply with
26 the provisions of this Section or upon any constitutional or

1 other legal right or privilege of the petitioner. During the
2 pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as
3 it deems proper, the running of the time allowed for
4 compliance with the subpoena or other request, in whole or in
5 part, except that the petitioner shall comply with any portion
6 of the subpoena or other request not sought to be modified or
7 set aside.

8 (e) In the administration of this Act, the Attorney
9 General may accept an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance with
10 respect to any violation of the Act from any person or entity
11 who has engaged in, is engaging in, or was about to engage in
12 such violation. Evidence of a violation of an Assurance of
13 Voluntary Compliance shall be prima facie evidence of a
14 violation of this Act in any subsequent proceeding brought by
15 the Attorney General against the alleged violator.

16 (f) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require
17 the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations or
18 pursue litigation before a Veterans Assistance Commission or
19 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission or
20 superintendent of such a commission may pursue mandamus,
21 declaratory judgment, or any other available legal remedy.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

23 (330 ILCS 45/9.2)

24 Sec. 9.2. Remedies.

25 (a) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe

1 that any person, group, or entity is violating, has violated,
2 or is about to violate Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or ~~subsection (a),~~
3 ~~(b), or (c) of Section~~ 10, the Attorney General may bring an
4 action in the name of the People of the State against the
5 person, group, or entity to restrain by preliminary or
6 permanent injunction the use of any practice that violates
7 Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~
8 10. In such an action, the court may award restitution to
9 recoup the loss of moneys set aside to provide services to
10 veterans or any other relief that the court deems proper.

11 (b) In addition, the court may assess a civil penalty not
12 to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~, or
13 ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~ 10.

14 (c) In any action brought in accordance with Section 9.1
15 or 9.2 ~~under the provisions of Section 8 or 9 or subsection~~
16 ~~(a), (b), or (c) of Section 10~~, the Attorney General is
17 entitled to recover costs.

18 (d) If a court orders a party to make payments to the
19 Attorney General and the payments are to be used for the
20 operations of the Office of the Attorney General or a party
21 agrees, in an out-of-court settlement, to make payment to the
22 Attorney General for the operations of the Office of the
23 Attorney General, then moneys shall be deposited into the
24 Attorney General Court Ordered and Voluntary Compliance
25 Payment Projects Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used,
26 subject to appropriation, for the performance of any function

1 pertaining to the exercise of the duties of the Attorney
2 General, including, but not limited to, enforcement of any law
3 of this State and conducting public education programs.
4 However, any moneys in the Fund that are required by the court
5 or by an agreement to be used for a particular purpose shall be
6 used for that purpose.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

8 (330 ILCS 45/9.3 new)

9 Sec. 9.3. Veterans Assistance Provost.

10 (a) The Attorney General shall appoint a Veterans
11 Assistance Provost and provide staff as are deemed necessary
12 by the Attorney General for the Veterans Assistance Provost.
13 The Veterans Assistance Provost shall be an attorney licensed
14 to practice in Illinois.

15 (b) Through the Veterans Assistance Provost, the Attorney
16 General shall have the power to establish training for
17 delegates and alternates of each Veterans Assistance
18 Commission and Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,
19 provide instruction and education concerning this Act,
20 facilitate the resolution of disputes concerning the
21 provisions of this Act, and carry out the enforcement of this
22 Act as provided.

23 (330 ILCS 45/10) (from Ch. 23, par. 3090)

24 Sec. 10. Superintendents and counties.

1 (a) As used in this Section, "Commission", when a
2 particular entity is not specified, means a Veterans
3 Assistance Commission or a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
4 Commission, or both, according to the specific context.

5 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o) of
6 Section 9 for a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,
7 the ~~The~~ executive powers of a ~~the~~ Commission shall be vested in
8 a superintendent selected or appointed by a vote from a
9 majority of the full Commission membership and who shall have
10 received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the
11 United States.

12 (b) Superintendent vacancies shall be filled, whether
13 long-term or temporarily, at the next regularly scheduled full
14 Commission meeting or within 30 days at a specially convened
15 meeting, whichever comes sooner, and shall be selected by a
16 vote from a majority of the full Commission membership.

17 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (o) of
18 Section 9 for a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission,
19 ~~any~~ Any individual who may be tasked with assuming the duties
20 of or may be vested with the executive powers of a
21 superintendent, whether as acting or interim superintendent,
22 must be selected or appointed by a vote from a majority of the
23 full Commission membership and must have received an honorable
24 discharge from the armed forces of the United States.

25 (d) Under the direction of the Commission which shall have
26 final discretion in selecting an appropriate office facility,

1 ~~the~~ The designated superintendent of the Veterans Assistance
2 Commission of the county shall, ~~under the direction of the~~
3 ~~Commission,~~ have charge of and maintain an office at in the
4 ~~county building or~~ a central location within the county or at a
5 location which is otherwise convenient to veterans and their
6 families in the discretion of the Commission, to be used
7 solely by the Commission for providing the just, necessary,
8 and needed services mandated by law. The office may be in the
9 county building if there is available room and such facilities
10 are acceptable to the Commission.

11 The designated superintendent of a Jurisdictional Veterans
12 Assistance Commission shall have charge of and maintain an
13 office in accordance with the provisions under subsection (o)
14 of Section 9.

15 (e) From its own general fund, the ~~The~~ county where the
16 Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans
17 Assistance Commission is headquartered or organized shall
18 provide for the funding of the office and provide all
19 necessary furnishings, supplies, and services as passed by the
20 county board in its annual appropriation, and the county shall
21 provide or fund services, including, but not limited to, human
22 resources and payroll support; information technology services
23 and equipment; telephone services and equipment; printing
24 services and equipment; postage costs; and liability
25 insurance. Such funding may not be drawn from the tax levied
26 under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and Section 12-21.13

1 of the Illinois Public Aid Code or from State funds from the
2 Department of Human Services. Any litigation or legal
3 settlement that has a financial impact to the county is
4 subject to the approval of the county board.

5 (f) The county where the Veterans Assistance Commission or
6 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission is headquartered
7 or organized shall also provide to the employees of the
8 Commission all benefits available to county employees,
9 including, but not limited to, benefits offered through the
10 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund or any other applicable
11 county retirement fund; health, life, and dental insurance;
12 and workers compensation insurance. Employer contributions and
13 costs for these benefits, services, and coverages may come
14 from Commission funds. However, such funding may not be drawn
15 from the tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code
16 and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code or from
17 State funds from the Department of Human Services. Counties
18 not currently providing benefits to Commission employees must
19 comply with this subsection within 90 days after the effective
20 date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

21 (g) The county board shall, in any county where a Veterans
22 Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance
23 Commission is headquartered or ~~is~~ organized, in addition to
24 sums appropriated for these just, necessary, and needed
25 services as provided by law and approved by the Commission
26 under this Act, appropriate such additional sums, upon

1 recommendation of the Veterans Assistance Commission or
2 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission, to properly
3 compensate, ~~in accordance with the requirements of subsection~~
4 ~~(g) of Section 9 and subsection (c) of this Section~~, the
5 officers and employees required to administer such assistance
6 in accordance with the policies, procedures, and resolutions
7 of the Commission. The county board shall also provide funds
8 to the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional
9 Veterans Assistance Commission ~~Commission~~ to reimburse the
10 superintendent, officers, delegates, and employees for certain
11 expenses which are approved by the Commission. Funding for
12 compensation and reimbursements under this subsection may be
13 drawn from the tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the Counties
14 Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code. The
15 superintendent and other employees shall be employees of the
16 Veterans Assistance Commission Jurisdictional Veterans
17 Assistance Commission, and no provision in this Section or
18 elsewhere in this Act shall be construed to mean that they are
19 employees of the county or that the county has any discretion
20 or oversight as to the compensation, benefits, or other terms
21 and conditions of employment of Veterans Assistance Commission
22 employees or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission
23 employees; such discretion rests solely and exclusively with
24 the Commission. However, a provider of employee benefits may
25 consider Veterans Assistance Commission employees or
26 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission employees as

1 county employees for the purpose of administering employee
2 benefits. The changes to this subsection made by this
3 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly are a declaration
4 of existing law and shall not be construed as a new enactment.

5 (h) Superintendents, subject to rules formulated by the
6 Commission, shall select, as far as possible, Veteran Service
7 Officers and other employees from among military veterans,
8 including those who have served or may still be serving as
9 members of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component
10 of the armed forces of the United States, who did not receive a
11 bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent
12 discharge thereof, or their spouses, surviving spouses, or
13 children. Employees of the Commission shall be at-will
14 employees.

15 (i) In a county with less than 2,000,000 inhabitants, the
16 superintendent may, in conformance with subsection (f) of
17 Section 3-9005 of the Counties Code, request from the State's
18 Attorney serving the county in which the Veterans Assistance
19 Commission is located, an opinion upon any question of law
20 relating to a matter in which the county Veterans Assistance
21 Commission may be concerned. With regard to matters involving
22 Section 2, 8, ~~or 9~~ or ~~subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section~~
23 10, the State's Attorney shall confer with the Office of the
24 Attorney General before rendering an opinion.

25 (j) Superintendents of all counties subject to this Act,
26 when required by the Commission, shall give bond in the sum of

1 \$2,000 for the faithful performance of their duties.

2 (k) All persons selected or appointed to fill positions
3 provided for in this Section shall be exempt from the
4 operation and provisions of any civil service act or laws of
5 this State, and the secretary of the Commission shall be
6 appointed by the superintendent.

7 (l) If any Veterans Assistance Commission or
8 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission fails to timely
9 submit to the Veterans Assistance Provost, acting on behalf of
10 the Attorney General, copies of the audits and reports
11 required under this Act, or fails to publish the audits and
12 reports as required under this Act, then the superintendent or
13 interim superintendent of that Veterans Assistance Commission
14 or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission shall be
15 fined an amount no greater than \$50 for each month or portion
16 of each month that the Veterans Assistance Commission or
17 Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission fails to submit
18 the audit or report, or fails to publish the audit or report as
19 required under this Act. The State's Attorney of the county in
20 which the Veterans Assistance Commission or Jurisdictional
21 Veterans Assistance Commission is located or the Attorney
22 General may apply to the circuit court of the district or
23 county for relief by mandamus requiring the superintendent or
24 interim superintendent to pay the fine. The fine shall be
25 payable to the county in which the Veterans Assistance
26 Commission or Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission is

1 located and shall be deposited into the general corporate fund
2 of that county.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-56, eff. 7-9-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;
4 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3	55 ILCS 5/5-2006	from Ch. 34, par. 5-2006
4	305 ILCS 5/12-21.13	from Ch. 23, par. 12-21.13
5	330 ILCS 45/1	from Ch. 23, par. 3081
6	330 ILCS 45/2	from Ch. 23, par. 3082
7	330 ILCS 45/8	from Ch. 23, par. 3088
8	330 ILCS 45/9	from Ch. 23, par. 3089
9	330 ILCS 45/9.1	
10	330 ILCS 45/9.2	
11	330 ILCS 45/9.3 new	
12	330 ILCS 45/10	from Ch. 23, par. 3090