

1 AN ACT concerning the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Natural Resources  
5 (Conservation) Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois  
6 is amended by changing Section 805-305 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 805/805-305) (was 20 ILCS 805/63a23)

8 Sec. 805-305. Campsites and housing facilities. The  
9 Department has the power to provide facilities for overnight  
10 tent and trailer campsites and to provide suitable housing  
11 facilities for student and juvenile overnight camping groups.  
12 The Department of Natural Resources may regulate, by  
13 administrative order, the fees to be charged for tent and  
14 trailer camping units at individual park areas based upon the  
15 facilities available. However, for campsites with access to  
16 showers or electricity, any Illinois resident who is age 62 or  
17 older or has a Class 2 disability as defined in Section 4A of  
18 the Illinois Identification Card Act shall be charged only  
19 one-half of the camping fee charged to the general public  
20 during the period Monday through Thursday of any week and shall  
21 be charged the same camping fee as the general public on all  
22 other days. For campsites without access to showers or  
23 electricity, no camping fee authorized by this Section shall be

1 charged to any resident of Illinois who has a Class 2  
2 disability as defined in Section 4A of the Illinois  
3 Identification Card Act. For campsites without access to  
4 showers or electricity, no camping fee authorized by this  
5 Section shall be charged to any resident of Illinois who is age  
6 62 or older for the use of a campsite unit during the period  
7 Monday through Thursday of any week. No camping fee authorized  
8 by this Section shall be charged to any resident of Illinois  
9 who is a veteran with a disability or a former prisoner of war,  
10 as defined in Section 5 of the Department of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~  
11 Affairs Act. No camping fee authorized by this Section shall be  
12 charged to any resident of Illinois after returning from  
13 service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United  
14 States as an active duty member of the United States Armed  
15 Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the  
16 United States Armed Forces for the amount of time that the  
17 active duty member spent in service abroad or mobilized if the  
18 person (i) applies for a pass at the Department office in  
19 Springfield within 2 years after returning and provides  
20 acceptable verification of service or mobilization to the  
21 Department or (ii) applies for a pass at a Regional Office of  
22 the Department within 2 years after returning and provides  
23 acceptable verification of service or mobilization to the  
24 Department; any portion of a year that the active duty member  
25 spent in service abroad or mobilized shall count as a full  
26 year. Nonresidents shall be charged the same fees as are

1 authorized for the general public regardless of age. The  
2 Department shall provide by regulation for suitable proof of  
3 age, or either a valid driver's license or a "Golden Age  
4 Passport" issued by the federal government shall be acceptable  
5 as proof of age. The Department shall further provide by  
6 regulation that notice of these reduced admission fees be  
7 posted in a conspicuous place and manner.

8 Reduced fees authorized in this Section shall not apply to  
9 any charge for utility service.

10 For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable verification  
11 of service or mobilization" means official documentation from  
12 the Department of Defense or the appropriate Major Command  
13 showing mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including:  
14 (i) a DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of  
15 Military Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard,  
16 (iii) a letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members of  
17 the Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major Command  
18 covering Illinois for active duty members, (v) personnel  
19 records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any other  
20 documentation that the Department, by administrative rule,  
21 deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or service  
22 abroad.

23 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service abroad"  
24 means active duty service outside of the 50 United States and  
25 the District of Columbia, and includes all active duty service  
26 in territories and possessions of the United States.

1 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

2 Section 10. The Illinois Lottery Law is amended by changing  
3 Section 21.6 as follows:

4 (20 ILCS 1605/21.6)

5 Sec. 21.6. Scratch-off for Illinois veterans.

6 (a) The Department shall offer a special instant  
7 scratch-off game for the benefit of Illinois veterans. The game  
8 shall commence on January 1, 2006 or as soon thereafter, at the  
9 discretion of the Director, as is reasonably practical. The  
10 operation of the game shall be governed by this Act and any  
11 rules adopted by the Department. If any provision of this  
12 Section is inconsistent with any other provision of this Act,  
13 then this Section governs.

14 (b) The Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund is created as a  
15 special fund in the State treasury. The net revenue from the  
16 Illinois veterans scratch-off game shall be deposited into the  
17 Fund for appropriation by the General Assembly solely to the  
18 Department of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~ Affairs for making grants,  
19 funding additional services, or conducting additional research  
20 projects relating to each of the following:

21 (i) veterans' post traumatic stress disorder;

22 (ii) veterans' homelessness;

23 (iii) the health insurance costs of veterans;

24 (iv) veterans' disability benefits, including but not

1 limited to, disability benefits provided by veterans  
2 service organizations and veterans assistance commissions  
3 or centers;

4 (v) the long-term care of veterans; provided that,  
5 beginning with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008, no  
6 more than 20% of such moneys shall be used for health  
7 insurance costs; and

8 (vi) veteran employment and employment training.

9 In order to expend moneys from this special fund, beginning  
10 with moneys appropriated for fiscal year 2008, the Director of  
11 Veterans' Affairs shall appoint a 3-member funding  
12 authorization committee. The Director shall designate one of  
13 the members as chairperson. The committee shall meet on a  
14 quarterly basis, at a minimum, and shall authorize expenditure  
15 of moneys from the special fund by a two-thirds vote. Decisions  
16 of the committee shall not take effect unless and until  
17 approved by the Director of Veterans' Affairs. Each member of  
18 the committee shall serve until a replacement is named by the  
19 Director of Veterans' Affairs. One member of the committee  
20 shall be a member of the Veterans' Advisory Council.

21 Moneys collected from the special instant scratch-off game  
22 shall be used only as a supplemental financial resource and  
23 shall not supplant existing moneys that the Department of  
24 Veterans' Affairs ~~Veterans~~ Affairs may currently expend for the  
25 purposes set forth in items (i) through (v).

26 Moneys received for the purposes of this Section,

1 including, without limitation, net revenue from the special  
2 instant scratch-off game and from gifts, grants, and awards  
3 from any public or private entity, must be deposited into the  
4 Fund. Any interest earned on moneys in the Fund must be  
5 deposited into the Fund.

6 For purposes of this subsection, "net revenue" means the  
7 total amount for which tickets have been sold less the sum of  
8 the amount paid out in the prizes and the actual administrative  
9 expenses of the Department solely related to the scratch-off  
10 game under this Section.

11 (c) During the time that tickets are sold for the Illinois  
12 veterans scratch-off game, the Department shall not  
13 unreasonably diminish the efforts devoted to marketing any  
14 other instant scratch-off lottery game.

15 (d) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to  
16 implement and administer the provisions of this Section.

17 (Source: P.A. 97-464, eff. 10-15-11; 97-740, eff. 7-5-12;  
18 98-499, eff. 8-16-13; revised 9-2-16.)

19 Section 15. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is  
20 amended by changing Sections 0.01 and 20 as follows:

21 (20 ILCS 2805/0.01) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 65.9)

22 Sec. 0.01. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
23 Department of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~ Affairs Act.

24 (Source: P.A. 86-1324.)

1 (20 ILCS 2805/20)

2 Sec. 20. Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force. The  
3 Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force is hereby created  
4 within the Department of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~ Affairs. The Task  
5 Force shall investigate the re-entry process for service  
6 members who return to civilian life after being engaged in an  
7 active theater. The investigation shall include the effects of  
8 post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, disabilities,  
9 and other issues the Task Force finds relevant to the re-entry  
10 process. For fiscal year 2012, the Task Force shall include the  
11 availability of prosthetics in its investigation. For fiscal  
12 year 2014, the Task Force shall include 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 to offer  
16 recommendations on how best to alleviate these needs which  
17 shall be included in the Task Force Annual Report for 2014. The  
18 Task Force shall include the following members:

19 (a) a representative of the Department of Veterans'  
20 ~~Veterans~~ Affairs, who shall chair the committee;

21 (b) a representative from the Department of Military  
22 Affairs;

23 (c) a representative from the Office of the Illinois  
24 Attorney General;

25 (d) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the

1 Speaker of the House;

2 (e) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
3 House Minority Leader;

4 (f) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
5 President of the Senate;

6 (g) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the  
7 Senate Minority Leader;

8 (h) 4 members chosen by the Department of Veterans'  
9 ~~Veterans~~ Affairs, who shall represent statewide veterans'  
10 organizations or veterans' homeless shelters;

11 (i) one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;  
12 and

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

15 Vacancies in the Task Force shall be filled by the initial  
16 appointing authority. Task Force members shall serve without  
17 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
18 incurred in performing duties associated with the Task Force.

19 By July 1, 2008 and by July 1 of each year thereafter, the  
20 Task Force shall present an annual report of its findings to  
21 the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of Veterans'  
22 Affairs, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary of the  
23 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

24 If the Task Force becomes inactive because active theaters  
25 cease, the Director of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~ Affairs may  
26 reactivate the Task Force if active theaters are reestablished.

1 (Source: P.A. 97-414, eff. 1-1-12; 98-310, eff. 8-12-13;  
2 revised 9-8-16.)

3 Section 20. The Task Force on Inventorying Employment  
4 Restrictions Act is amended by changing Section 10 as follows:

5 (20 ILCS 5000/10)

6 Sec. 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "State agencies" shall mean the following State agencies,  
8 boards, and commissions: Department on Aging, Department of  
9 Agriculture, Office of Appellate Defender, Office of the  
10 State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, Illinois Arts Council,  
11 Office of the Attorney General, Auditor General, Capital  
12 Development Board, Department of Central Management Services,  
13 Department of Children and Family Services, Civil Service  
14 Commission, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic  
15 Opportunity, Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Community  
16 College Board, State of Illinois Comprehensive Health  
17 Insurance Plan, Office of the Comptroller, Department of  
18 Corrections, Criminal Justice Information Authority, Illinois  
19 Council on Developmental Disabilities, Illinois Deaf and Hard  
20 of Hearing Commission, Commission on Discrimination and Hate  
21 Crimes, State Board of Education, Illinois Educational Labor  
22 Relations Board, State Board of Elections, Illinois Emergency  
23 Management Agency, Department of Employment Security,  
24 Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Fair, Illinois

1 Finance Authority, Department of Financial and Professional  
2 Regulation, Office of the First Lady, Illinois Gaming Board,  
3 Office of the Governor, Guardianship and Advocacy Commission,  
4 Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Board of Higher  
5 Education, Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Housing  
6 Development Authority, Illinois Human Rights Commission,  
7 Department of Human Rights, Department of Human Services,  
8 Illinois State Board of Investment, Department of Juvenile  
9 Justice, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of  
10 Labor, Illinois Labor Relations Board, Illinois Law  
11 Enforcement Training Standards Board, Illinois Liquor Control  
12 Commission, Illinois Lottery, Governor's Office of Management  
13 and Budget, Illinois Medical District Commission, Department  
14 of Military Affairs, Department of Natural Resources,  
15 Pollution Control Board, Prairie State 2000 Authority,  
16 Property Tax Appeal Board, Department of Public Health,  
17 Illinois Prisoner Review Board, Illinois Racing Board,  
18 Department of Revenue, Office of the Secretary of State, State  
19 Fire Marshal, Illinois State Police, State Police Merit Board,  
20 State Retirement Systems, Office of the State Treasurer, State  
21 Universities Civil Service System, State Universities  
22 Retirement System, Illinois Student Assistance Commission,  
23 Illinois Supreme Court, Illinois Teachers' Retirement System,  
24 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Department of  
25 Transportation, Department of Veterans' Affairs ~~Veterans~~  
26 ~~Affairs~~, Governor's Office of Women's Affairs, and Illinois

1 Workers' Compensation Commission.

2 (Source: P.A. 96-593, eff. 8-18-09.)

3 Section 25. The Illinois Procurement Code is amended by  
4 changing Section 45-67 as follows:

5 (30 ILCS 500/45-67)

6 Sec. 45-67. Encouragement to hire qualified veterans. A  
7 chief procurement officer may, as part of any solicitation,  
8 encourage potential contractors to consider hiring qualified  
9 veterans and to notify them of any available financial  
10 incentives or other advantages associated with hiring such  
11 persons. In establishing internal guidelines in furtherance of  
12 this Section, the Department of Central Management Services may  
13 work with an interagency advisory committee consisting of  
14 representatives from the Department of Veterans' ~~Veterans~~  
15 Affairs, the Department of Employment Security, the Department  
16 of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Department of  
17 Revenue and consisting of 8 members of the General Assembly, 2  
18 of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, 2 of whom are appointed by the President of  
20 the Senate, 2 of whom are appointed by the Minority Leader of  
21 the House of Representatives, and 2 of whom are appointed by  
22 the Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 For the purposes of this Section, "qualified veteran" means  
24 an Illinois resident who: (i) was a member of the Armed Forces

1 of the United States, a member of the Illinois National Guard,  
2 or a member of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the  
3 United States; (ii) served on active duty in connection with  
4 Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, or  
5 Operation Iraqi Freedom; and (iii) was honorably discharged.

6 The Department of Central Management Services must report  
7 to the Governor and to the General Assembly by December 31 of  
8 each year on the activities undertaken by chief procurement  
9 officers and the Department of Central Management Services to  
10 encourage potential contractors to consider hiring qualified  
11 veterans. The report must include the number of vendors who  
12 have hired qualified veterans.

13 (Source: P.A. 98-1076, eff. 1-1-15; revised 9-9-16.)

14 Section 30. The Nursing Home Care Act is amended by  
15 changing Section 2-215 as follows:

16 (210 ILCS 45/2-215)

17 Sec. 2-215. Conflicts with the Department of Veterans'  
18 ~~Veterans~~ Affairs Act. If there is a conflict between the  
19 provisions of this Act and the provisions of the Department of  
20 Veterans' ~~Veterans~~ Affairs Act concerning an Illinois Veterans  
21 Home not operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, then  
22 the provisions of this Act shall apply.

23 (Source: P.A. 90-168, eff. 7-23-97.)

1 Section 35. The Viet Nam Veterans Compensation Act is  
2 amended by changing Sections 3 and 5 as follows:

3 (330 ILCS 30/3) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 57.53)

4 Sec. 3. The widow or widower, child or children, mother,  
5 father, person standing in loco parentis, brothers and sisters,  
6 in the order named, of any deceased person shall be paid the  
7 compensation to which the deceased person would be entitled  
8 under Section 2 of this Act. Where such deceased person would  
9 have qualified for compensation under Section 2 except for his  
10 death and his death was connected with such service and  
11 resulted from such service during the time period specified in  
12 Section 2, his survivors, in the order named in this Section,  
13 shall be paid \$1000.

14 Where a preceding beneficiary fails to file a claim for  
15 compensation after the official notice of death the Department  
16 of Veterans' Affairs ~~Illinois Veterans' Commission~~ may proceed  
17 to process applications from succeeding beneficiaries, and  
18 such beneficiaries may then proceed to qualify upon submission  
19 of satisfactory proof of eligibility.

20 (Source: P.A. 78-295.)

21 (330 ILCS 30/5) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 57.55)

22 Sec. 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs ~~Illinois~~  
23 ~~Veterans' Commission~~ has complete charge and control of the  
24 general scheme of payments authorized by this Act and shall

1 adopt general rules for the making of such payments, the  
2 ascertainment and selection of proper beneficiaries and the  
3 amount to which such beneficiaries are entitled, and for  
4 procedure.

5 If the person to whom compensation is payable under this  
6 Act is under legal disability, it shall be paid to the person  
7 legally vested with the care of such legally disabled person  
8 under the laws of his State of residence. If no such person has  
9 been so designated for the legally disabled person, payment  
10 shall be made to the chief officer of any hospital or  
11 institution under the supervision or control of any State or of  
12 the Veterans Administration of the United States in which such  
13 legally disabled person is placed, if such officer is  
14 authorized to accept moneys for the benefit of the incompetent.  
15 Any payments so made shall be held or used solely for the  
16 benefit of the legally disabled person.

17 As used in this Section, a person under legal disability  
18 means any person found to be so disabled by a court of  
19 competent jurisdiction of any State or the District of Columbia  
20 or by any adjudication officer of the Veterans Administration  
21 of the United States.

22 (Source: P.A. 83-706.)

23 Section 40. The Prisoner of War Bonus Act is amended by  
24 changing Section 2 as follows:

1 (330 ILCS 35/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 57.62)

2 Sec. 2. The widow or widower, child or children, mother,  
3 father, person standing in loco parentis, brothers and sisters,  
4 in the order named, of any deceased person shall be paid the  
5 compensation to which the deceased person would be entitled  
6 under Section 1 of this Act.

7 Where a preceding beneficiary fails to file a claim for  
8 compensation after the official notice of death the Department  
9 of Veterans' Affairs ~~Illinois Veterans' Commission~~ may proceed  
10 to process applications from succeeding beneficiaries and such  
11 beneficiaries may then proceed to qualify upon submission of  
12 satisfactory proof of eligibility.

13 (Source: P.A. 78-293.)

14 Section 45. The Veterans Burial Places Act is amended by  
15 changing Section 3 as follows:

16 (330 ILCS 110/3) (from Ch. 21, par. 59c)

17 Sec. 3. For the purpose of locating the burial places of  
18 United States War Veterans, the different Veteran  
19 organizations, their auxiliaries and affiliated organizations  
20 in the State of Illinois are authorized, without expense to the  
21 State, to collect the required data and prepare and file with  
22 the Department of Veterans' Affairs the information provided  
23 for in section 1 hereof. For filing and recording this report,  
24 the Department of Veterans' Affairs ~~Illinois Veterans'~~

1 ~~Commission~~ may charge a fee of 25 cents for a single report and  
2 not to exceed 50 cents per folio for reports containing more  
3 than one name and more than one folio. A representative of the  
4 Department of Veterans' Affairs may visit cemeteries of the  
5 State or resort to any other reliable means to locate the  
6 burial places of United States War Veterans.

7 (Source: P.A. 81-167.)

8 Section 50. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
9 changing Section 3-626 as follows:

10 (625 ILCS 5/3-626)

11 Sec. 3-626. Korean War Veteran license plates.

12 (a) In addition to any other special license plate, the  
13 Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and applications  
14 made in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State, may  
15 issue special registration plates designated as Korean War  
16 Veteran license plates to residents of Illinois who  
17 participated in the United States Armed Forces during the  
18 Korean War. The special plate issued under this Section shall  
19 be affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division,  
20 motorcycles, motor vehicles of the second division weighing not  
21 more than 8,000 pounds, and recreational vehicles as defined by  
22 Section 1-169 of this Code. Plates issued under this Section  
23 shall expire according to the staggered multi-year procedure  
24 established by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

1 (b) The design, color, and format of the plates shall be  
2 wholly within the discretion of the Secretary of State. The  
3 Secretary may, in his or her discretion, allow the plates to be  
4 issued as vanity plates or personalized in accordance with  
5 Section 3-405.1 of this Code. The plates are not required to  
6 designate "Land Of Lincoln", as prescribed in subsection (b) of  
7 Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary shall prescribe the  
8 eligibility requirements and, in his or her discretion, shall  
9 approve and prescribe stickers or decals as provided under  
10 Section 3-412.

11 (c) (Blank).

12 (d) The Korean War Memorial Construction Fund is created as  
13 a special fund in the State treasury. All moneys in the Korean  
14 War Memorial Construction Fund shall, subject to  
15 appropriation, be used by the Department of Veterans' ~~Veteran~~  
16 Affairs to provide grants for construction of the Korean War  
17 Memorial to be located at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield,  
18 Illinois. Upon the completion of the Memorial, the Department  
19 of Veterans' ~~Veteran~~ Affairs shall certify to the State  
20 Treasurer that the construction of the Memorial has been  
21 completed. Upon the certification by the Department of  
22 Veterans' ~~Veteran~~ Affairs, the State Treasurer shall transfer  
23 all moneys in the Fund and any future deposits into the Fund  
24 into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund.

25 (e) An individual who has been issued Korean War Veteran  
26 license plates for a vehicle and who has been approved for

1 benefits under the Senior Citizens and Persons with  
2 Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act shall pay the original  
3 issuance and the regular annual fee for the registration of the  
4 vehicle as provided in Section 3-806.3 of this Code.

5 (Source: P.A. 99-127, eff. 1-1-16; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15;  
6 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
8 1, 2018.