



Sen. Cristina Castro

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10100HB0120sam001

LRB101 02890 CPF 60120 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 120

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 120 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is
5 amended by adding Section 38 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38 new)

7 Sec. 38. Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force.

8 (a) The Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force is
9 created. The Task Force shall review and make recommendations
10 regarding veterans' service-related ailments that are not
11 recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
12 including exploring why certain service-related ailments are
13 not recognized and determining what may be done to have them
14 recognized.

15 Additionally, the Task Force shall assess ways the State of
16 Illinois can improve the rate at which disability compensation

1 claims are approved by the federal government and correct the
2 disparity between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs'
3 approval of disability compensation for Illinois veterans and
4 that which is approved for veterans in other states.

5 (b) The Task Force shall have 15 members, comprised as
6 follows:

7 (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's
8 designee, who shall serve as chairperson.

9 (2) 2 Members from the House of Representatives,
10 appointed one each by the Speaker of the House and the
11 House Minority Leader.

12 (3) 2 Members of the Senate, appointed one each by the
13 President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader.

14 (4) One veteran, appointed by the Director of Veterans'
15 Affairs.

16 (5) One medical professional with experience working
17 with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by
18 the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

19 (6) 4 representatives from a variety of veterans
20 organizations representing geographic diversity in the
21 State, appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

22 (7) 4 members appointed by the chair of the Veterans'
23 Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives and the
24 chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the Senate.
25 Those appointed to the Task Force under this paragraph
26 shall be members of different Illinois counties' Veterans

1 Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers, and
2 VITAS officials.

3 Task Force members shall serve without compensation but may
4 be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing their
5 duties.

6 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least once every 2 months
7 beginning July 1, 2019, and at other times as determined by the
8 Task Force.

9 (d) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide
10 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

11 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes
12 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.
13 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and
14 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by
15 December 31, 2020. The Task Force is dissolved, and this
16 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2021.

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
18 becoming law."