



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5895

Introduced 11/12/2024, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

330 ILCS 45/1

from Ch. 23, par. 3081

Amends the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Defines "veteran" to mean any person who: (i) served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose last discharge or release was under conditions other than dishonorable; (ii) served on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for training purposes, and was either awarded a service-connected disability or died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable; (iii) served in the National Guard or as a reservist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for training purposes; or (iv) is determined to be a veteran according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; provided, that in any case, the service of such person qualified under items (i) through (iv) was entered into or served in Illinois, or such person has resided in the State for at least one day, except for the purpose of determining the residential eligibility of a deceased veteran's dependents.

LRB103 42763 KTG 76004 b

1 AN ACT concerning service members.

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

4 Section 5. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is amended
5 by changing Section 1 as follows:

6 (330 ILCS 45/1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3081)

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

8 "United States Armed Forces" means the United States Army,
9 Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

10 "Veteran" means any person who: (i) served on active duty
11 in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and whose last
12 discharge or release was under conditions other than
13 dishonorable; (ii) served on active duty in any branch of the
14 United States Armed Forces, including active duty solely for
15 training purposes, and was either awarded a service-connected
16 disability or died in such service under conditions other than
17 dishonorable; (iii) served in the National Guard or as a
18 reservist in any branch of the United States Armed Forces,
19 including active duty solely for training purposes; or (iv) is
20 determined to be a veteran according to the U.S. Department of
21 Veterans Affairs; provided, that in any case, the service of
22 such person qualified under items (i) through (iv) was entered
23 into or served in Illinois, or such person has resided in the

1 State for at least one day, except for the purpose of
2 determining the residential eligibility of a deceased
3 veteran's dependents.

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

10 "Administrator of military veterans assistance" means the
11 commanders of the various veteran service organizations, the
12 superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission, or
13 other persons whose duty it is, under the existing statutes,
14 to care for, relieve or maintain, wholly or in part, any person
15 who may be entitled to such assistance under the statutes of
16 the State of Illinois. This Act shall not infringe upon the
17 mandated powers and authorities vested in the Illinois
18 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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