

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 Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is
5 amended by adding Section 6 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/6 new)

7 Sec. 6. Veterans' Disability Compensation Task Force.

8 (a) The Veterans' Disability Compensation Task Force is
9 created to assess ways the State of Illinois can improve the
10 rate at which disability compensation claims are approved by
11 the federal government and correct the disparity between the
12 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' approval of disability
13 compensation for Illinois veterans and that which is approved
14 for veterans in other states.

15 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the chair and minority
16 spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the House of
17 Representatives, the chair and minority spokesperson of the
18 Veterans Affairs Committee in the Senate, and 15 members
19 appointed by the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in
20 the House of Representatives and the chair of the Veterans
21 Affairs Committee in the Senate. Those appointed to the Task
22 Force shall be members of different Illinois counties' Veterans
23 Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers, and VITAS

1 officials.

2 (c) Task Force members shall serve without compensation but
3 may be reimbursed for any travel expenses incurred in attending
4 meetings. Within 60 days of the effective date of this
5 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Task Force
6 shall meet, and thereafter shall meet at least quarterly.

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

9 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes
10 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.
11 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and any
12 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
13 before July 1, 2020.

14 (f) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2021.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.