

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Veterans Service Act is
5 amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 49/15)

7 Sec. 15. Survey; coordinator; best practices report; best
8 efforts.

9 (a) All public colleges and universities shall, within 60
10 days after the effective date of this Act, conduct a survey of
11 the services and programs that are provided for veterans,
12 active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of
13 their respective campuses. This survey shall enumerate and
14 fully describe the service or program that is available, the
15 number of veterans or active duty personnel using the service
16 or program, an estimated range for potential use within a
17 5-year and 10-year period, information on the location of the
18 service or program, and how its administrators may be
19 contacted. The survey shall indicate the manner or manners in
20 which a student veteran may avail himself or herself of the
21 program's services. This survey must be made available to all
22 veterans matriculating at the college or university in the form
23 of an orientation-related guidebook.

1 Each public college and university shall make the survey
2 available on the homepage of all campus Internet links as soon
3 as practical after the completion of the survey. As soon as
4 possible after the completion of the survey, each public
5 college and university shall provide a copy of its survey to
6 the following:

7 (1) the Board of Higher Education;

8 (2) the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

9 (3) the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and
10 the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of
11 Representatives; and

12 (4) the Governor.

13 (b) Each public college and university shall, at its
14 discretion, (i) appoint, within 6 months after the effective
15 date of this Act, an existing employee or (ii) hire a new
16 employee to serve as a Coordinator of Veterans and Military
17 Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or
18 university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student
19 headcount above 1,000 students. A public college or university
20 shall use its best efforts to hire a veteran of the armed
21 services as the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel
22 Student Services under this subsection (b).

23 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student
24 Services shall be an ombudsperson serving the specific needs of
25 student veterans and military personnel and their families and
26 shall serve as an advocate before the administration of the

1 college or university for the needs of student veterans. The
2 college or university shall enable the Coordinator of Veterans
3 and Military Personnel Student Services to communicate
4 directly with the senior executive administration of the
5 college or university periodically. The college or university
6 shall retain unfettered discretion to determine the
7 organizational management structure of its institution.

8 In addition to any responsibilities the college or
9 university may assign, the Coordinator of Veterans and Military
10 Personnel Student Services shall make its best efforts to
11 create a centralized source for student veterans and military
12 personnel to learn how to receive all benefit programs and
13 services for which they are eligible.

14 Each college and university campus that is required to have
15 a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student
16 Services shall regularly and conspicuously advertise the
17 office location, phone number, and Internet access to the
18 Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student
19 Services, along with a brief summary of the manner in which he
20 or she can assist student veterans. The advertisement shall
21 include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

22 (1) advertisements on each campus' Internet home page;

23 and

24 (2) any promotional mailings for student application.

25 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student
26 Services shall facilitate other campus offices with the

1 promotion of programs and services that are available.

2 (c) Upon receipt of all of the surveys under subsection (a)
3 of this Section, the Board of Higher Education and the
4 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall conduct a joint review of
5 the surveys and post, on any Internet home page they may
6 operate, a link to each survey as posted on the Internet
7 website for the college or university. Upon receipt of all of
8 the surveys, the Office of the Governor, through its military
9 affairs advisors, shall similarly conduct a review of the
10 surveys and post the surveys on its Internet website. Following
11 its review of the surveys, the Office of the Governor shall
12 submit an evaluation report to each college and university
13 offering suggestions and insight on the conduct of student
14 veteran-related policies and programs.

15 (d) The Board of Higher Education and the Department of
16 Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to
17 highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial
18 to veterans and active duty military personnel. The report
19 shall contain a fiscal needs assessment in conjunction with any
20 program recommendations.

21 (e) Each college and university campus that is required to
22 have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student
23 Services under subsection (b) of this Section shall make its
24 best efforts to create academic and social programs and
25 services for veterans and active duty military personnel that
26 will provide reasonable opportunities for academic performance

1 and success.

2 Each public college and university shall make its best
3 efforts to determine how its online educational curricula can
4 be expanded or altered to serve the needs of student veterans
5 and currently-deployed military, including a determination of
6 whether and to what extent the public colleges and universities
7 can share existing technologies to improve the online curricula
8 of peer institutions, provided such efforts are both
9 practically and economically feasible.

10 (Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.