



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

**HB5424**

by Rep. Grant Wehrli - Avery Bourne - Patrick Windhorst - Amy Grant

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force Act. Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force to advise the Governor and General Assembly and work directly with State agencies and institutions of higher education to improve and expand policies, services, programs, and opportunities for service members, veterans, and their families. Provides specified subjects for the Task Force to review and make recommendations on. Requires the Task Force to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 1, 2021, and to other specified agencies in electronic form. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 1, 2022. Effective immediately.

LRB101 19537 CPF 69010 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Institution of higher education" means the University of  
8 Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State  
9 University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State  
10 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois  
11 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois  
12 University, a community college, as that term is defined under  
13 Section 1-2 of the Public Community College Act, any college  
14 under the Public Community College Act, and any institution  
15 that receives funds under the Higher Education Student  
16 Assistance Act.

17 "Military service member" means a current or former member  
18 of an active, guard, or reserve component in the Army, Navy,  
19 Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Space Force.

20 Section 10. Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force.

21 (a) The Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force is  
22 created. The Task Force shall advise the Governor and General

1 Assembly and work directly with State agencies and institutions  
2 of higher education to improve and expand policies, services,  
3 programs, and opportunities for military service members,  
4 veterans, and their families.

5 (b) The Task Force shall review how various State entities  
6 and institutions of higher education within the State accept or  
7 deny military education, military training, military service  
8 and experience, community involvement, independent study, and  
9 professional and occupational licensing for various careers,  
10 as well as the licenses that military spouses and dependents  
11 carry from state to state. The Task Force shall review how  
12 Illinois recognizes or denies accreditation from regional and  
13 national accreditation boards and how that impacts military  
14 service members, veterans, and their spouses and dependent  
15 children.

16 (c) The Task Force shall review the costs that military  
17 service members, veterans, and their families undertake for  
18 re-certification and license renewal fees and the cost to the  
19 military service member, veteran, or their family member and to  
20 the government for again accomplishing higher education  
21 coursework that the military service member, veteran, or their  
22 family member has already accomplished through his or her  
23 military education and training.

24 (d) The Task Force shall review how Army, Air Force, and  
25 Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps credits are accepted from  
26 cadets and midshipmen by institutions of higher education.

1           (e) The Task Force shall make recommendations on how to  
2 make Illinois more veteran-friendly regarding education,  
3 training, and licenses already held by military service  
4 members, veterans, and their families, with the goal of  
5 reducing unemployment, homelessness, and financial hardships  
6 among its military service member and veteran population,  
7 attracting skilled veterans and their families to our State,  
8 and empowering trained military service members and their  
9 families to better provide for their families and contribute to  
10 our economy sooner.

11           (f) The Task Force shall review and make recommendations  
12 regarding professional and occupational licensing and the  
13 difficulties encountered by military service members,  
14 veterans, and their spouses and dependents, including, but not  
15 limited to, exploring the licensing of those persons with  
16 out-of-state licenses in equivalent occupations. The Task  
17 Force shall make recommendations on how to best effectuate the  
18 recognition of military experience for academic credit,  
19 industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees.

20           (g) The Task Force shall assess ways the State can improve  
21 the rate at which portability of licensures for military  
22 service members, veterans, and their spouses is approved by the  
23 State.

24           Section 15. Task Force members.

25           (a) The Task Force shall have 20 members, comprised as

1 follows:

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

4 (2) Two members from the House of Representatives,  
5 appointed one each by the Speaker of the House and the  
6 House Minority Leader.

7 (3) Two members of the Senate, appointed one each by  
8 the President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader.

9 (4) One veteran, appointed by the Director of Veterans'  
10 Affairs.

11 (5) The Secretary of Financial and Professional  
12 Regulation or the Secretary's designee.

13 (6) A representative from the Illinois Board of Higher  
14 Education appointed by the Illinois Board of Higher  
15 Education.

16 (7) A representative from the Illinois Community  
17 College Board appointed by the Illinois Community College  
18 Board.

19 (8) A representative from the Illinois Articulation  
20 Initiative appointed by the Illinois Articulation  
21 Initiative.

22 (9) Six representatives from a variety of veterans  
23 organizations representing geographic diversity in the  
24 State, including, but not limited to, members of various  
25 war eras, different branches, different service  
26 components, military spouses, and college veteran support

1 services directors, appointed by the Director of Veterans'  
2 Affairs.

3 (10) Four members, one of whom shall be appointed by  
4 the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House  
5 of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
6 minority spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee  
7 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
8 appointed by the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee of  
9 the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
10 minority spokesperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee of  
11 the Senate. Those appointed to the Task Force under this  
12 paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'  
13 Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,  
14 and VITAS officials.

15 (b) Task Force members shall serve without compensation but  
16 may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing  
17 their duties.

18 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly beginning  
19 as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act,  
20 and at other times as determined by the Task Force.

21 Section 20. Administrative support. The Department of  
22 Veterans' Affairs shall provide administrative and other  
23 support to the Task Force.

24 Section 25. Study. The Task Force shall perform a study,

1 which shall review all of the following and make any  
2 recommendations the Task Force deems appropriate:

3 (1) Any materials produced by the Military Prior  
4 Learning Assessment Task Force, which was created by Public  
5 Act 99-395, with an analysis of any shortcomings relating  
6 to military service members, student veterans, and Reserve  
7 Officer Training Corps members.

8 (2) The Educational Credit for Military Experience  
9 Act, with an analysis of any shortcomings relating to  
10 military service members, student veterans, and Reserve  
11 Officer Training Corps members.

12 (3) Professional and occupational licensing and the  
13 difficulties encountered by military service members,  
14 veterans, and their spouses and dependents, including, but  
15 not limited to, exploring the licensing of military service  
16 members with out-of-state licenses in equivalent  
17 occupations and how to best effectuate the recognition of  
18 military experience for academic credit,  
19 industry-recognized licenses, credentials, and college  
20 degrees.

21 (4) The costs and burdens that military service  
22 members, veterans, and their families undertake for  
23 re-certification and license renewal fees.

24 (5) The costs and burdens, both to the veteran and to  
25 the State and federal governments, for re-accomplishing  
26 higher education coursework that a veteran has already

1 taken through his or her military education and training,  
2 as shown by the following:

3 (A) American Council on Education Military Guide;

4 (B) DD Form 2586 for Verification of Military  
5 Experience and Training;

6 (C) Community College of the Air Force;

7 (D) Air University;

8 (E) College Level Examination Program;

9 (F) Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education  
10 Support program;

11 (G) Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education  
12 Support Subject Standardized Tests;

13 (H) Excelsior College Examinations;

14 (I) Air Force Institute of Technology;

15 (J) Department of Defense schools, such as the  
16 Defense Language Institute;

17 (K) DA Form 1059 for Army Service School Academic  
18 Evaluation Report;

19 (L) Non-commissioned officer evaluation reports;

20 (M) DD Form 295 for Application for the Evaluation  
21 of Learning Experiences During Military Service;

22 (N) Joint Services Transcript, otherwise known as  
23 the Sailor Marine Corps American Council on Education  
24 Registry Transcript;

25 (O) Army American Council on Education Registry  
26 Transcript System;



- 1 (P) Coast Guard Institute; and  
2 (Q) Servicemembers Opportunity College.

3 Section 30. Report. The Task Force shall submit a report of  
4 its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and to  
5 the Governor on or before December 1, 2021. An electronic form  
6 of the report shall also be provided to each relevant State  
7 agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of  
8 Veterans' Affairs and Department of Financial and Professional  
9 Regulation, and to the Illinois Board of Higher Education,  
10 Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Articulation  
11 Initiative, and to all public and private institutions of  
12 higher education throughout the State.

13 Section 35. Repeal. This Act is repealed on December 1,  
14 2022.

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