

# SB1937



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1937

Introduced 2/15/2019, by Sen. Andy Manar

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 49/15

Amends the Higher Education Veterans Service Act. Requires each public college and university to use its best efforts to hire a veteran of the United States armed forces as the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services. Provides that the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services must create and maintain a contact list of all veterans attending the public college or university and may communicate with veterans of the public college or university via email or other electronic means. Effective immediately.

LRB101 08681 AXK 53766 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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. Each public college and  
20 university must use its best efforts to hire a veteran of the  
21 United States armed forces as the Coordinator of Veterans and  
22 Military Personnel Student Services.

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. The Coordinator of  
14 Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services must also  
15 create and maintain a contact list of all veterans attending  
16 the public college or university.

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

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

26 and

1 (2) any promotional mailings for student application.

2 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
3 Services may communicate with veterans of the public college or  
4 university via email or other electronic means.

5 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
6 Services shall facilitate other campus offices with the  
7 promotion of programs and services that are available.

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

21 (d) The Board of Higher Education and the Department of  
22 Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to  
23 highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial  
24 to veterans and active duty military personnel. The report  
25 shall contain a fiscal needs assessment in conjunction with any  
26 program recommendations.

1           (e) Each college and university campus that is required to  
2 have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
3 Services under subsection (b) of this Section shall make its  
4 best efforts to create academic and social programs and  
5 services for veterans and active duty military personnel that  
6 will provide reasonable opportunities for academic performance  
7 and success.

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

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

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