

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.