

1 AN ACT concerning higher 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 Sections 15 and 20 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.

20 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
21 Services shall be an ombudsperson serving the specific needs of  
22 student veterans and military personnel and their families and  
23 shall serve as an advocate before the administration of the  
24 college or university for the needs of student veterans. The  
25 college or university shall enable the Coordinator of Veterans  
26 and Military Personnel Student Services to communicate

1 directly with the senior executive administration of the  
2 college or university periodically. The college or university  
3 shall retain unfettered discretion to determine the  
4 organizational management structure of its institution.

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

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

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

20 ~~and~~

21 (2) any promotional mailings for student application;

22 ~~and-~~

23 (3) the website and any social media accounts of the  
24 public college or university.

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; revised 7-16-19.)

11 (110 ILCS 49/20)

12 Sec. 20. Fiscal impact and reporting. ~~Each Beginning on~~  
13 ~~September 1 of the year following the effective date of this~~  
14 ~~Act and each subsequent~~ September 1, each college and  
15 university that is required to have a Coordinator of Veterans  
16 and Military Personnel Student Services under subsection (b) of  
17 Section 20 of this Act shall report to the Board of Higher  
18 Education on the fiscal impact of the programs and services  
19 related to the requirements of this Act and on the efforts of  
20 the public college or university in attracting, recruiting, and  
21 retaining veterans and military personnel.

22 The Board of Higher Education shall compile the information  
23 and, within 60 days after receipt of such information, issue a  
24 report reflecting the information for each institution  
25 required to report under this Section. The report must be filed

1 with the Governor, the Governor's Office of Management and  
2 Budget, the Director of Veterans' Affairs, the Speaker of the  
3 House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the  
4 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the  
5 Minority Leader of the Senate.

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

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.