

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is
5 amended by changing Section 38 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)

8 Sec. 38. Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force.

9 (a) The Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force is
10 created. The Task Force shall review and make recommendations
11 regarding veterans' service-related ailments that are not
12 recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
13 including exploring why certain service-related ailments are
14 not recognized and determining what may be done to have them
15 recognized.

16 Additionally, the Task Force shall assess ways the State
17 of Illinois can improve the rate at which disability
18 compensation claims are approved by the federal government and
19 correct the disparity between the U.S. Department of Veterans
20 Affairs' approval of disability compensation for Illinois
21 veterans and that which is approved for veterans in other
22 states.

23 (b) The Task Force shall have 15 members, comprised as

1 follows:

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

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

7 (3) 2 Members of the Senate, appointed one each by the
8 President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader.

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

11 (5) One medical professional with experience working
12 with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by
13 the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

14 (6) 4 representatives from a variety of veterans
15 organizations representing geographic diversity in the
16 State, appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

17 (7) 4 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the
18 chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House of
19 Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the
20 minority spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee
21 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
22 appointed by the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee
23 of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the
24 minority spokesperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee of
25 the Senate. Those appointed to the Task Force under this
26 paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'

1 Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,
2 and VITAS officials.

3 Task Force members shall serve without compensation but
4 may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing
5 their duties.

6 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least once every 2 months
7 beginning on or before July 1, 2021 ~~2019~~, and at other times as
8 determined by the Task Force. Task Force members shall select
9 from amongst themselves a chairperson or co-chairpersons at
10 the initial Task Force meeting.

11 (d) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide
12 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

13 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes
14 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.
15 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and
16 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by
17 December 31, 2022 ~~2020~~. The Task Force is dissolved, and this
18 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2023 ~~2021~~.

19 (Source: P.A. 101-225, eff. 8-9-19.)

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.