



Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit

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10200HB2369ham001

LRB102 11696 KTG 24063 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2369

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 2369 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 37 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/37)

7 Sec. 37. Illinois Joining Forces Foundation.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that navigating the "sea of  
9 goodwill" for those who serve in uniform is one of the greatest  
10 challenges that transitioning veterans face; as a result, they  
11 risk being unable to access many of the federal, State, and  
12 non-profit resources available to them. Recognizing this  
13 problem, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the  
14 Department of Military Affairs acted to establish the Illinois  
15 Joining Forces initiative, a public-private network of  
16 military and veteran-serving organizations that are working

1 together, in person and online, to create a ~~no wrong door~~  
2 system of support for the State's military and veteran  
3 communities. Illinois Joining Forces is a nation-leading  
4 model, awarded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and  
5 the National Association of State Directors of Veterans  
6 Affairs for its groundbreaking work in creating smarter,  
7 collaborative community support for those in uniform, past and  
8 present. The foundation created by this amendatory Act of the  
9 98th General Assembly will serve to ensure the long-term  
10 sustainability of Illinois Joining Forces, which is critically  
11 important for the support of the State's military and veteran  
12 communities.

13 (b) The Illinois Joining Forces Foundation shall benefit  
14 service members, veterans, and their families by:

15 (1) convening military and veteran support  
16 organizations, ~~through Illinois Joining Forces working~~  
17 ~~groups,~~ to build cross-sector relationships and mutual  
18 awareness;

19 (2) providing policy recommendations ~~through Illinois~~  
20 ~~Joining Forces member working groups to the Illinois~~  
21 ~~Veterans' Advisory Council;~~

22 ~~(3) facilitating the transfer of information and~~  
23 ~~knowledge among Illinois Joining Forces member~~  
24 ~~organizations;~~

25 ~~(4) maintaining and continuing to build the~~  
26 ~~no wrong door online navigation platform;~~

1           (3) ~~(5)~~ educating ~~Illinois Joining Forces members and~~  
2 ~~other~~ community providers regarding military and veteran  
3 culture and needs, thus improving the collective capacity  
4 of the support system; and

5           (4) ~~(6)~~ outreaching directly to service members,  
6 veterans, and their families regarding the ~~no wrong door~~  
7 system of support that Illinois Joining Forces provides to  
8 them.

9           (c) For the purpose of this Section, "veterans service  
10 organization" means an organization that meets all of the  
11 following criteria:

12           (1) The organization is formed by and for United  
13 States military veterans.

14           (2) The organization is chartered by the United States  
15 Congress and incorporated in the State of Illinois.

16           (3) The organization has maintained a State  
17 headquarters office in Illinois for the 10-year period  
18 immediately preceding the effective date of this  
19 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

20           (4) The organization maintains at least one office in  
21 this State, staffed by a veterans service officer.

22           (5) The organization is capable of preparing a power  
23 of attorney for a veteran and processing claims for  
24 veterans services.

25           ~~(6) The organization is not funded by the State of~~  
26 ~~Illinois or by any county in this State.~~

1 (d) The General Assembly authorizes the Department of  
2 Veterans' Affairs, in accordance with Section 10 of the State  
3 Agency Entity Creation Act, to create the Illinois Joining  
4 Forces Foundation as a not-for-profit foundation. The  
5 Department shall file articles of incorporation as required  
6 under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to  
7 create the Foundation.

8 The Foundation's Board of Directors shall be appointed as  
9 follows: one member appointed by the Governor; one member  
10 appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed  
11 by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member appointed by  
12 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one member  
13 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
14 Representatives; ~~and all of the members of the Illinois~~  
15 ~~Joining Forces Executive Committee, who shall be appointed by~~  
16 ~~the Director of Veterans' Affairs.~~

17 The Foundation may also include additional voting members  
18 of the board of directors to be nominated and approved by a  
19 nominating committee established by the board of directors. In  
20 the event of a vacancy, the nominating committee shall present  
21 to the board recommendations. The board shall be held in an  
22 equal number of non-appointed and appointed members. Thus,  
23 additional nominees by either the Department of Veterans'  
24 Affairs or the Department of Military Affairs may be appointed  
25 to ensure parity. In addition to any veterans service  
26 organization otherwise represented on the Board of Directors,

1 a veterans service organization may designate in writing an ex  
2 officio, non-voting participant to the Board of Directors. Any  
3 veterans service organization appointee under this provision  
4 ~~Section~~ does not count towards a quorum.

5 The Director of Veterans' Affairs, or the Director's  
6 designee, and a designee chosen by the Director of Military  
7 Affairs who is a senior management official of the Department  
8 of Military Affairs with the authority to make decisions on  
9 behalf of the agency shall serve as members of the  
10 Foundation's Board of Directors. Board of Director  
11 appointments shall be for 2-year terms. Vacancies shall be  
12 filled by the official who made the statutory appointment  
13 ~~recommendation for the vacated appointment~~. No member of the  
14 Board of Directors may receive compensation for his or her  
15 services to the Foundation. Upon appointment, the Board of  
16 Directors, as members of a public entity, shall be represented  
17 and indemnified pursuant to the requirements of the State  
18 Employee Indemnification Act.

19 (e) The purposes of the Foundation are to: promote,  
20 support, assist, and sustain Illinois Joining Forces  
21 operations; solicit and accept grants and private donations  
22 and disburse them for the stated intent of the Foundation or  
23 the private donor; solicit and generate public and private  
24 funding and donations that assist in enhancing the Illinois  
25 Joining Forces mission, services, programs, and operations;  
26 and engage generally in other lawful endeavors consistent with

1 the foregoing purposes. The foundation shall operate within  
2 the provisions of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act  
3 of 1986.

4 (f) The ~~As soon as practicable after the Foundation is~~  
5 ~~created,~~ the Board of Directors shall meet, organize, and  
6 designate, by majority vote, a chairperson, a treasurer, a  
7 secretary, and any additional officers that may be needed to  
8 carry out the activities of the Foundation and shall adopt  
9 bylaws of the Foundation. The Board of Directors, in  
10 consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and ~~, in~~  
11 ~~consultation with~~ the Department of Military Affairs, may  
12 adopt other rules deemed necessary to govern Foundation  
13 procedures.

14 (g) The Foundation may request and accept gifts, grants,  
15 donations, or bequests from the federal government or its  
16 agencies or officers or from any person, firm, or corporation,  
17 and may expend receipts on activities that it considers  
18 suitable to the performance of its duties under this Section  
19 and consistent with any requirement of the grant, gift,  
20 donation, or bequest. Funds collected by the Foundation shall  
21 be considered private funds and shall be held in an  
22 appropriate account outside of the State treasury. Private  
23 funds collected by the Foundation are not subject to the  
24 Public Funds Investment Act. The treasurer of the Foundation  
25 shall be the custodian of all Foundation funds. The treasurer  
26 shall be required to obtain a fidelity or surety bond on

1 satisfactory terms and in sufficient amounts to protect the  
2 interests of the Foundation, the cost of which shall be  
3 reimbursed by the Foundation. The Foundation and its officers  
4 shall be responsible for the approval of the recording of  
5 receipts, approval of payments, and the proper filing of  
6 required reports. The Foundation may be assisted in carrying  
7 out its functions by Department of Military Affairs personnel  
8 and shall be assisted in carrying out its functions by  
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs personnel, including, but not  
10 limited to, legal professionals. The Foundation may receive  
11 administrative support, or additionally agreed upon support as  
12 needed or requested, from the State. The Department of  
13 Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall  
14 provide reasonable assistance to the Foundation to achieve the  
15 purposes of the Foundation as determined by the respective  
16 Directors. The Foundation shall cooperate fully with the  
17 boards, commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions  
18 of the State. The funds held and made available by the Illinois  
19 Joining Forces Foundation shall be subject to financial and  
20 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State  
21 Auditing Act. The Foundation shall not have any power of  
22 eminent domain. The Foundation shall not construct or make any  
23 permanent improvements to any real property.

24 (h) The Foundation must provide a written notice to any  
25 entity providing a gift, grant, donation, or bequest to the  
26 Foundation that the Foundation is not subject to the

1 provisions of the Public Funds Investment Act, which Act  
2 places limitations on the types of securities in which a  
3 public agency may invest public funds.

4 (i) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the  
5 Foundation is not eligible for any grant administered ~~or~~  
6 ~~funded~~ by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the  
7 Department of Military Affairs, but may receive services,  
8 including, but not limited to, contractual services, provided  
9 by either Department.

10 (Source: P.A. 100-10, eff. 6-30-17.)".