

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 adding Section 16 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/16 new)

7 Sec. 16. SkillBridge program. Subject to appropriation for
8 this purpose, the Department shall serve as the State's
9 principal assistance organization under the United States
10 Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for employers and
11 transitioning service members. As the State's principal
12 assistance organization under the United States Department of
13 Defense's SkillBridge program for qualified businesses in this
14 State and for transitioning service members who reside in, or
15 who wish to reside in, this State, the Department shall:

16 (1) establish and maintain, as applicable, its
17 certification for the SkillBridge program or any other
18 similar workforce training and transition programs
19 established by the United States Department of Defense;

20 (2) educate businesses, business associations, and
21 transitioning service members regarding the SkillBridge
22 program and its benefits, and educate military command and
23 personnel within the State on the opportunities available

1 to transitioning service members through the SkillBridge
2 program;

3 (3) assist businesses in obtaining approval for
4 skilled workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge
5 program, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships,
6 internships, or fellowships; and

7 (4) match transitioning service members who are deemed
8 eligible for SkillBridge participation by their military
9 command with training opportunities offered by
10 participating businesses, with the intent of having
11 transitioning service members achieve gainful employment
12 in this State upon completion of their SkillBridge
13 training.

14 The Department may adopt any rules necessary to implement
15 this Section.