



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

### 2021 and 2022

### SB2017

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Thomas Cullerton

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/38

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that the Veterans' Service-Related Ailments Task Force shall meet at least once every 2 months beginning on or before January 1, 2022 (rather than beginning July 1, 2019). Removes language requiring the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's designee to serve as chairperson of the Task Force and replaces it with language providing that Task Force members shall select from among themselves a chairperson or co-chairpersons at the initial Task Force meeting. Provides that the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor and General Assembly on or before June 1, 2023 (rather than December 31, 2020). Provides that the Task Force is dissolved, and the provisions repealed, on December 31, 2023 (rather than 2021). Effective immediately.

LRB102 16155 CPF 22006 b

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7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)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 January 1, 2022 ~~July 1, 2019~~, and at  
8 other times as determined by the Task Force. Task Force  
9 members shall select from among themselves a chairperson or  
10 co-chairpersons at 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 on or  
17 before June 1, 2023 ~~by December 31, 2020~~. The Task Force is  
18 dissolved, and this Section is repealed, on December 31, 2023  
19 ~~2021~~.

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

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