

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 reenacting and changing Section 38 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2023)

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

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

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

1           (b) The Task Force shall have 15 members, comprised as  
2 follows:

3           (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or the  
4 Director's designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'  
2 Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,  
3 and VITAS officials.

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

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

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

15 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes  
16 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.  
17 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and  
18 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by  
19 December 31, 2025 ~~2022~~. The Task Force is dissolved, and this  
20 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2026 ~~2023~~.

21 (Source: P.A. 101-225, eff. 8-9-19; 102-417, eff. 8-20-21.)

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