



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1454

Introduced 2/7/2023, by Sen. Sue Rezin

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/2.01c

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Defines "outbreak" as 2 or more individuals, employees, staff, or residents living within or employed by a Veterans Home contracting an infectious disease within 48 hours of the first diagnosis. Provides that if a Veterans Home administrator or a member of the administrative staff is notified that an outbreak has occurred, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Public Health shall conduct an onsite visit to assess the status of the spread and determine if any additional actions can be taken to lessen exposure to the disease. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Public Health are to conduct the site visit as soon as practical, but in no event shall the visit be delayed later than the end of the next business day. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to post specific information on its website upon conducting a site visit.

LRB103 27413 KTG 53785 b

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

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 2.01c as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/2.01c)

7 Sec. 2.01c. Veterans Home; notice of infectious disease.

8 (a) As used in this Section, "infectious disease" means  
9 any disease caused by a living organism or other pathogen,  
10 including a fungus, bacteria, parasite, protozoan, prion, or  
11 virus, that has a history of or potential for a significant  
12 mortality rate among elderly or vulnerable populations,  
13 including, but not limited to, strains of influenza,  
14 Legionnaires' disease, coronavirus, and pneumonia.

15 (a-1) As used in this Section, "outbreak" means 2 or more  
16 individuals, employees, staff, or residents living within or  
17 employed by the Veterans Home contracting an infectious  
18 disease within 48 hours of the first diagnosis.

19 (b) If a Veterans Home administrator or a member of the  
20 administrative staff is notified that, within one month or  
21 less, 2 or more persons residing within the Veterans Home are  
22 diagnosed with an infectious disease by a physician licensed  
23 to practice medicine in all its branches; a hospital licensed

1 under the Hospital Licensing Act or organized under the  
2 University of Illinois Hospital Act; a long-term care facility  
3 licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act; a freestanding  
4 emergency center licensed under the Emergency Medical Services  
5 (EMS) Systems Act; a local health department; or any other  
6 State agency or government entity, then, within 24 hours after  
7 the facility is notified of the second diagnosis, the Veterans  
8 Home must:

9 (1) provide a written notification of the incidence of  
10 the infectious disease to each resident of the facility  
11 and the resident's emergency contact or next of kin;

12 (2) post a notification of the incidence of the  
13 infectious disease in a conspicuous place near the main  
14 entrance to the Veterans Home; and

15 (3) provide a written notification to the Department  
16 of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Public Health  
17 of the incidence of the infectious disease and of  
18 compliance with the written notification requirements of  
19 paragraph (1).

20 In addition to the initial written notifications, the  
21 Veterans Home must provide written notifications of any  
22 updates on the incidence of the infectious disease and any  
23 options that are available to the residents.

24 The Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of  
25 Public Health must post the notification of the incidence of  
26 the infectious disease, any updates, and any options that are

1 available to the residents on their websites as soon as  
2 practicable after receiving the notification, but in no event  
3 shall the notice be posted later than the end of the next  
4 business day.

5 (c) If a Veterans Home administrator or a member of the  
6 administrative staff is notified that an outbreak has  
7 occurred, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the  
8 Department of Public Health shall conduct an onsite visit to  
9 assess the status of the spread and determine if any  
10 additional actions can be taken to lessen exposure to the  
11 disease. The Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of  
12 Public Health are to conduct the visit as soon as practical,  
13 but in no event shall the visit be delayed later than the end  
14 of the next business day.

15 Upon conducting the site visit, the Department of  
16 Veterans' Affairs shall post on its website:

17 (1) the findings of the onsite inspection;

18 (2) the corrections needed to fix any disparities or  
19 discrepancies in procedure found;

20 (3) the date or dates of the next onsite inspection to  
21 determine if the appropriate actions and visit  
22 recommendations have been taken; and

23 (4) any and all initial and follow-up reports from the  
24 initial site visit.

25 (Source: P.A. 100-632, eff. 7-27-18.)