

1 AN ACT in relation to 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 adding Section 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/15 new)

7 Sec. 15. Veterans advisory council.

8 (a) A veterans advisory council shall be established in the  
9 State of Illinois. The council shall consist of at least 17  
10 members as follows:

11 (1) Four members of the General Assembly, appointed one  
12 each by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of  
13 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
14 and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives,  
15 preferably from a legislative or representative district  
16 in which a State-operated veterans home is located.

17 (2) Six veterans appointed by the Director of Veterans'  
18 Affairs.

19 (3) One veteran appointed by the commander or president  
20 of each veterans service organization that is chartered by  
21 the federal government and by the State of Illinois and  
22 elects to appoint a member.

23 No member of the council shall be an employee or  
24 representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

25 Members of the council shall serve without compensation or  
26 reimbursement.

27 (b) At the initial meeting of the council, the members  
28 shall elect from among themselves a chairman. The members shall  
29 draw lots to determine the length of their terms so that 9  
30 members have terms that expire on July 1, 2005 and the  
31 remaining members have terms that expire on July 1, 2006.  
32 Thereafter, all members of the council shall be appointed for

1 terms of 2 years.

2 The appointing authority may at any time make an  
3 appointment to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term of a  
4 member.

5 (c) The council shall meet quarterly or at the call of the  
6 chairman or at the call of the Director of Veterans' Affairs or  
7 the Governor. The Department shall provide meeting space and  
8 clerical and administrative support services for the council.

9 (d) The council has the power to do the following:

10 (1) Advise the Department of Veterans' Affairs with  
11 respect to the fulfillment of its statutory duties.

12 (2) Review and study the issues and concerns that are  
13 most significant to Illinois veterans and advise the  
14 Department on those issues and concerns.

15 (3) Receive a report from the Director of Veterans'  
16 Affairs or the Director's designee at each meeting with  
17 respect to the general activities of the Department.

18 (4) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly  
19 annually describing the issues addressed and the actions  
20 taken by the council during the year as well as any  
21 recommendations for future action.

22 (e) The council established under this Section replaces any  
23 Illinois Veterans Advisory Council established under Executive  
24 Order No. 3 (1982).

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
26 2004.