

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 20 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/20 new)

7 Sec. 20. Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force. The
8 Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force is hereby created
9 within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Task Force shall
10 investigate the re-entry process for service members who return
11 to civilian life after being engaged in an active theater. The
12 investigation shall include the effects of post-traumatic
13 stress disorder, homelessness, disabilities, and other issues
14 the Task Force finds relevant to the re-entry process. The Task
15 Force shall include the following members:

16 (a) a representative of the Department of Veterans
17 Affairs, who shall chair the committee;

18 (b) a representative from the Department of Military
19 Affairs;

20 (c) a representative from the Office of the Illinois
21 Attorney General;

22 (d) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the
23 Speaker of the House;

1 (e) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the
2 House Minority Leader;

3 (f) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the
4 President of the Senate;

5 (g) a member of the General Assembly appointed by the
6 Senate Minority Leader;

7 (h) 4 members chosen by the Department of Veterans
8 Affairs, who shall represent statewide veterans'
9 organizations or veterans' homeless shelters;

10 (i) one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
11 and

12 (j) a representative of the United States Department of
13 Veterans Affairs shall be invited to participate.

14 Vacancies in the Task Force shall be filled by the initial
15 appointing authority. Task Force members shall serve without
16 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
17 incurred in performing duties associated with the Task Force.

18 By July 1, 2008 and by July 1 of each year thereafter, the
19 Task Force shall present an annual report of its findings to
20 the Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of Veterans'
21 Affairs, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary of the
22 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 If the Task Force becomes inactive because active theaters
24 cease, the Director of Veterans Affairs may reactivate the Task
25 Force if active theaters are reestablished.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.