



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB5398

Introduced 2/5/2010, by Rep. Michael P. McAuliffe

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/15

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Changes the composition of the veterans advisory council from 17 to 21 by adding one person appointed by the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, one person appointed by the Illinois Attorney General, one person appointed by the Illinois Secretary of State, and one person appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Provides that one veteran or family member of a veteran (rather than one veteran) appointed by the commander or president of each veterans service organization or military family organization (rather than only each veterans service organization) that is chartered by the federal government and by the State of Illinois and elects to appoint a member shall sit on the council. Effective immediately.

LRB096 18576 KTG 33958 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 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/15)

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 21 ~~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 or family member of a veteran appointed
20 by the commander or president of each veterans service
21 organization or military family organization that is
22 chartered by the federal government and by the State of
23 Illinois and elects to appoint a member.

1 (4) One person appointed by the Adjutant General of the
2 Illinois National Guard.

3 (5) One person appointed by the Illinois Attorney
4 General.

5 (6) One person appointed by the Illinois Secretary of
6 State.

7 (7) One person appointed by the Director of the
8 Illinois Department of Employment Security.

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

11 Members of the council shall serve without compensation or
12 reimbursement.

13 (b) At the initial meeting of the council, the members
14 shall elect from among themselves a chairman. The members shall
15 draw lots to determine the length of their terms so that 9
16 members have terms that expire on July 1, 2005 and the
17 remaining members have terms that expire on July 1, 2006.
18 Thereafter, all members of the council shall be appointed for
19 terms of 2 years.

20 The appointing authority may at any time make an
21 appointment to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term of a
22 member.

23 (c) The council shall meet quarterly or at the call of the
24 chairman or at the call of the Director of Veterans' Affairs or
25 the Governor. The Department shall provide meeting space and
26 clerical and administrative support services for the council.

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

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

4 (2) Review and study the issues and concerns that are
5 most significant to Illinois veterans and advise the
6 Department on those issues and concerns.

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

10 (4) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly
11 annually describing the issues addressed and the actions
12 taken by the council during the year as well as any
13 recommendations for future action.

14 (e) The council established under this Section replaces any
15 Illinois Veterans Advisory Council established under Executive
16 Order No. 3 (1982).

17 (Source: P.A. 93-779, eff. 7-21-04.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.