

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 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 (4) One person appointed by the Adjutant General of the

1 Illinois National Guard.

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

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

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

8 (8) One person appointed by each military family  
9 organization that is chartered by the federal government.

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

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

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

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

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

1 clerical and administrative support services for the council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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