

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 1. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
5 amended by adding Section 31 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/31 new)

7 Sec. 31. Women Veterans Task Force.

8 (a) Findings and purpose. Far too often the sacrifices of
9 women veterans are overlooked. This frequently leads to women
10 veterans being left out of veterans' organizations. In
11 addition, most veterans services are targeted to men. The
12 purpose of this Section is to establish a task force to examine
13 the needs of women veterans with respect to issues including,
14 but not limited to, compensation, rehabilitation, outreach,
15 breast and cervical cancer screenings, health care, and issues
16 facing women veterans in the community, and to offer solutions
17 on how best to alleviate these needs.

18 (b) Composition of Task Force. The Department of Veterans'
19 Affairs shall provide administrative support to the Task Force.
20 The Task Force shall be comprised of women veterans appointed
21 as follows:

22 (1) Five members appointed by the Governor.

23 (2) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives.

2 (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
3 House of Representatives.

4 (4) One member appointed by the President of the
5 Senate.

6 (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
7 Senate.

8 (c) Vacancies. Vacancies in the Task Force shall be filled
9 by the initial appointing authority.

10 (d) Compensation. Members of the Task Force shall serve
11 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary
12 expenses incurred in performing duties associated with the Task
13 Force.

14 (e) Duties. The Task Force shall examine the needs of women
15 veterans with respect to issues including, but not limited to,
16 compensation, rehabilitation, outreach, breast and cervical
17 cancer screenings, health care, and issues facing women
18 veterans in the community, and offer solutions on how best to
19 meet these needs.

20 (f) Reporting. By July 1, 2012, the Task Force shall
21 present a report of its findings to the Governor, the Director
22 of Veterans' Affairs, and the Secretary of the United States
23 Department of Veterans Affairs.

24 (g) Repeal. This Section is repealed on July 1, 2012.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.