



Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 3222

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 3222, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
6 amended by adding Section 37 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2805/37 new)

8 Sec. 37. Illinois Joining Forces Foundation.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that navigating the "sea of
10 goodwill" for those who serve in uniform is one of the greatest
11 challenges that transitioning veterans face; as a result, they
12 risk being unable to access many of the federal, State, and
13 non-profit resources available to them. Recognizing this
14 problem, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department
15 of Military Affairs acted to establish the Illinois Joining
16 Forces initiative, a public-private network of military and

1 veteran-serving organizations that are working together, in
2 person and online, to create a no-wrong-door system of support
3 for the State's military and veteran communities. Illinois
4 Joining Forces is a nation-leading model, awarded by the U.S.
5 Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of
6 State Directors of Veterans Affairs for its groundbreaking work
7 in creating smarter, collaborative community support for those
8 in uniform, past and present. The foundation created by this
9 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly will serve to
10 ensure the long-term sustainability of Illinois Joining
11 Forces, which is critically important for the support of the
12 State's military and veteran communities.

13 (b) The Illinois Joining Forces Foundation shall benefit
14 service members, veterans, and their families by:

15 (1) convening military and veteran support
16 organizations, through Illinois Joining Forces working
17 groups, to build cross-sector relationships and mutual
18 awareness;

19 (2) providing policy recommendations through Illinois
20 Joining Forces member working groups to the Illinois
21 Discharged Servicemember Task Force and the Illinois
22 Veterans' Advisory Council;

23 (3) facilitating the transfer of information and
24 knowledge among Illinois Joining Forces member
25 organizations;

26 (4) maintaining and continuing to build the

1 no-wrong-door online navigation platform;

2 (5) educating Illinois Joining Forces members and
3 other community providers regarding military and veteran
4 culture and needs, thus improving the collective capacity
5 of the support system; and

6 (6) outreaching directly to service members, veterans,
7 and their families regarding the no-wrong-door system that
8 Illinois Joining Forces provides to them.

9 (c) For the purpose of this Section, "veterans service
10 organization" means an organization that meets all of the
11 following criteria:

12 (1) The organization is formed by and for United States
13 military veterans.

14 (2) The organization is chartered by the United States
15 Congress and incorporated in the State of Illinois.

16 (3) The organization has maintained a State
17 headquarters office in Illinois for the 10-year period
18 immediately preceding the effective date of this
19 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

20 (4) The organization maintains at least one office in
21 this State, staffed by a veterans service officer.

22 (5) The organization is capable of preparing a power of
23 attorney for a veteran and processing claims for veterans
24 services.

25 (6) The organization is not funded by the State of
26 Illinois or by any county in this State.

1 (d) The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs, in accordance with Section 10 of the State
3 Agency Entity Creation Act, to create the Illinois Joining
4 Forces Foundation as a not-for-profit foundation. The
5 Department shall file articles of incorporation as required
6 under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to
7 create the Foundation. The Foundation's Board of Directors
8 shall be appointed as follows: one member appointed by the
9 Governor; one member appointed by the President of the Senate;
10 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one
11 member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives; one member appointed by the Minority Leader of
13 the House of Representatives; and all of the members of the
14 Illinois Joining Forces Executive Committee, who shall be
15 appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs. In addition to
16 any veterans service organization otherwise represented on the
17 Board of Directors, a veterans service organization may
18 designate in writing an ex officio, non-voting participant to
19 the Board of Directors. Any veterans service organization
20 appointee under this Section does not count towards a quorum.
21 The Director of Veterans' Affairs and a designee chosen by the
22 Director of Military Affairs who is a senior management
23 official of the Department of Military Affairs with the
24 authority to make decisions on behalf of the agency shall serve
25 as members of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Board of
26 Director appointments shall be for 2-year terms. Vacancies

1 shall be filled by the official who made the recommendation for
2 the vacated appointment. No member of the Board of Directors
3 may receive compensation for his or her services to the
4 Foundation. Upon appointment, the Board of Directors, as
5 members of a public entity, shall be represented and
6 indemnified pursuant to the requirements of the State Employee
7 Indemnification Act.

8 (e) The purposes of the Foundation are to: promote,
9 support, assist, and sustain Illinois Joining Forces
10 operations; solicit and accept grants and private donations and
11 disburse them for the stated intent of the Foundation or the
12 private donor; solicit and generate public and private funding
13 and donations that assist in enhancing the Illinois Joining
14 Forces mission, services, programs, and operations; and engage
15 generally in other lawful endeavors consistent with the
16 foregoing purposes. The foundation shall operate within the
17 provisions of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of
18 1986.

19 (f) As soon as practicable after the Foundation is created,
20 the Board of Directors shall meet, organize, and designate, by
21 majority vote, a chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary, and any
22 additional officers that may be needed to carry out the
23 activities of the Foundation and shall adopt bylaws of the
24 Foundation. The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in
25 consultation with the Department of Military Affairs, may adopt
26 other rules deemed necessary to govern Foundation procedures.

1 (g) The Foundation may request and accept gifts, grants,
2 donations, or bequests from the federal government or its
3 agencies or officers or from any person, firm, or corporation,
4 and may expend receipts on activities that it considers
5 suitable to the performance of its duties under this Section
6 and consistent with any requirement of the grant, gift,
7 donation, or bequest. Funds collected by the Foundation shall
8 be considered private funds and shall be held in an appropriate
9 account outside of the State Treasury. Private funds collected
10 by the Foundation are not subject to the Public Funds
11 Investment Act. The treasurer of the Foundation shall be the
12 custodian of all Foundation funds. The treasurer shall be
13 required to obtain a fidelity or surety bond on satisfactory
14 terms and in sufficient amounts to protect the interests of the
15 Foundation, the cost of which shall be reimbursed by the
16 Foundation. The Foundation and its officers shall be
17 responsible for the approval of the recording of receipts,
18 approval of payments, and the proper filing of required
19 reports. The Foundation may be assisted in carrying out its
20 functions by Department of Military Affairs and Department of
21 Veterans' Affairs personnel. The Department of Military
22 Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide
23 reasonable assistance to the Foundation to achieve the purposes
24 of the Foundation as determined by the respective Directors.
25 The Foundation shall cooperate fully with the boards,
26 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the

1 State. The funds held and made available by the Illinois
2 Joining Forces Foundation shall be subject to financial and
3 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State
4 Auditing Act. The Foundation shall not have any power of
5 eminent domain. The Foundation shall not construct or make any
6 permanent improvements to any real property.

7 (h) The Foundation must provide a written notice to any
8 entity providing a gift, grant, donation, or bequest to the
9 Foundation that the Foundation is not subject to the provisions
10 of the Public Funds Investment Act, which Act places
11 limitations on the types of securities in which a public agency
12 may invest public funds.

13 (i) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Foundation
14 is not eligible for any grant administered or funded by the
15 Department of Veterans' Affairs or the Department of Military
16 Affairs.

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