

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 Military Code of Illinois is amended by
5 adding Section 93.1 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1805/93.1 new)

7 Sec. 93.1. Pre-deployment and post-deployment testing. All
8 members of the Illinois National Guard shall undergo
9 pre-deployment and post-deployment testing for depleted
10 uranium. The Department shall cover the costs associated with
11 such testing. If a federal law requiring pre-deployment and
12 post-deployment testing for depleted uranium for members of the
13 National Guard takes effect, then this Section 93.1 shall be
14 inoperative on and after the effective date of that federal
15 law.

16 Section 10. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
17 amended by changing Section 2 as follows:

18 (20 ILCS 2805/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67)

19 Sec. 2. Powers and duties. The Department shall have the
20 following powers and duties:

21 To perform such acts at the request of any veteran, or his

1 or her spouse, surviving spouse or dependents as shall be
2 reasonably necessary or reasonably incident to obtaining or
3 endeavoring to obtain for the requester any advantage, benefit
4 or emolument accruing or due to such person under any law of
5 the United States, the State of Illinois or any other state or
6 governmental agency by reason of the service of such veteran,
7 and in pursuance thereof shall:

8 (1) Contact veterans, their survivors and dependents
9 and advise them of the benefits of state and federal laws
10 and assist them in obtaining such benefits;

11 (2) Establish field offices and direct the activities
12 of the personnel assigned to such offices;

13 (3) Create and maintain a volunteer field force; the
14 volunteer field force may include representatives from the
15 following without limitation: educational institutions,
16 labor organizations, veterans organizations, employers,
17 churches, and farm organizations; the volunteer field
18 force may not process federal veterans assistance claims;

19 (4) Conduct informational and training services;

20 (5) Conduct educational programs through newspapers,
21 periodicals, social media, television, and radio for the
22 specific purpose of disseminating information affecting
23 veterans and their dependents;

24 (6) Coordinate the services and activities of all state
25 departments having services and resources affecting
26 veterans and their dependents;

1 (7) Encourage and assist in the coordination of
2 agencies within counties giving service to veterans and
3 their dependents;

4 (8) Cooperate with veterans organizations and other
5 governmental agencies;

6 (9) Make, alter, amend and promulgate reasonable rules
7 and procedures for the administration of this Act;

8 (10) Make and publish annual reports to the Governor
9 regarding the administration and general operation of the
10 Department;

11 (11) (Blank); ~~and~~

12 (12) (Blank); and ~~-~~

13 (13) Provide non-monetary assistance to any resident
14 of Illinois who served on active duty in Afghanistan, Iraq,
15 Kuwait, or Qatar with any component of the U.S. Armed
16 Forces, including the Illinois National Guard, who
17 requests a pre-deployment or post-deployment test for
18 depleted uranium in accessing federal resources for
19 pre-deployment and post-deployment testing for depleted
20 uranium; if a federal law requiring pre-deployment and
21 post-deployment testing for depleted uranium for past and
22 present members of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces
23 takes effect, then this paragraph (13) shall be inoperative
24 on and after the effective date of that federal law.

25 The Department may accept and hold on behalf of the State,
26 if for the public interest, a grant, gift, devise or bequest of

1 money or property to the Department made for the general
2 benefit of Illinois veterans, including the conduct of
3 informational and training services by the Department and other
4 authorized purposes of the Department. The Department shall
5 cause each grant, gift, devise or bequest to be kept as a
6 distinct fund and shall invest such funds in the manner
7 provided by the Public Funds Investment Act, as now or
8 hereafter amended, and shall make such reports as may be
9 required by the Comptroller concerning what funds are so held
10 and the manner in which such funds are invested. The Department
11 may make grants from these funds for the general benefit of
12 Illinois veterans. Grants from these funds, except for the
13 funds established under Sections 2.01a and 2.03, shall be
14 subject to appropriation.

15 The Department has the power to make grants, from funds
16 appropriated from the Korean War Veterans National Museum and
17 Library Fund, to private organizations for the benefit of the
18 Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library.

19 The Department has the power to make grants, from funds
20 appropriated from the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, for
21 benefits authorized under the Survivors Compensation Act.

22 (Source: P.A. 99-314, eff. 8-7-15.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 30,
24 2017.