



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB3270

Introduced 2/24/2011, by Rep. David Harris - Patricia R. Bellock - Jil Tracy - Richard Morthland

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/37 new
30 ILCS 105/5.786 new

Amends the Department of Veterans Affairs Act and the State Finance Act. Requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish and administer the Illinois Homeless Veterans Program to provide grants and per diems to facilities providing shelter and assistance to homeless persons who served as members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Illinois National Guard, or any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Provides that the primary components of the program shall include advocacy for homeless veterans and increasing public awareness on the issue of homelessness among veterans and its root causes. Requires the Department to solicit federal and State funding, donations, and grants for the purpose of implementing the program. Creates the Illinois Homeless Veterans Program Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury for the purpose of implementing the program. Establishes the Homeless Veterans Service Coordinating Committee to discuss and research ways in which the veterans services provided by public and private agencies can be made more easily available and better focused to serve homeless veterans. Effective immediately.

LRB097 08112 KTG 48235 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Department of Veterans Affairs Act is
5 amended by adding Section 37 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/37 new)

7 Sec. 37. Illinois Homeless Veterans Program.

8 (a) The Department shall establish and administer the
9 Illinois Homeless Veterans Program. The purpose of the program
10 is to provide grants and per diems to facilities providing
11 shelter and assistance to homeless persons who served as
12 members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Illinois
13 National Guard, or any reserve component of the Armed Forces of
14 the United States, and who were discharged under conditions
15 other than dishonorable. The mission of the Illinois Homeless
16 Veterans Program shall be to work toward the elimination of
17 homelessness and the prevention of the threat of homelessness
18 and its causes in the State's veteran population. The primary
19 components of the program shall be:

20 (1) Advocacy and public awareness. The program shall be
21 an advocate for homeless veterans, and work to increase
22 public awareness on the issue of homelessness among
23 veterans and its root causes. The program shall advocate

1 legislation and policies on the local, State, and national
2 level to address these issues.

3 (2) Information services. The program shall monitor
4 and research issues relating to homeless veterans and
5 disseminate information and opportunities throughout its
6 network.

7 (3) Technical assistance. The program, through
8 conferences and training workshops with federal and State
9 agencies, shall provide guidance and direction in applying
10 for grants and benefits for homeless veterans. The program
11 shall provide peer-to-peer consulting and on-site
12 technical support.

13 (4) Facilities. The program, through grants and other
14 sources of funding, shall provide facilities as
15 appropriate in support of the program.

16 (b) The Department shall solicit federal and State funding,
17 donations, and grants for the purpose of implementing the
18 program established under this Section.

19 (c) The Illinois Homeless Veterans Program Fund is created
20 as a special fund in the State Treasury for the purpose of
21 implementing the Illinois Homeless Veterans Program. All
22 monies received pursuant to this Section shall be deposited
23 into the Illinois Homeless Veterans Program Fund. Funding for
24 the program shall be used to develop a statewide network of:

25 (1) Veterans services that provide treatment for
26 addictions, including but not limited to alcohol, drug use,

1 and gambling.

2 (2) Veterans services that lead to permanent housing.

3 (3) Veterans services that lead to employment.

4 (4) Concerned citizens and non-profit agencies that
5 provide shelter to homeless veterans.

6 (d) A Homeless Veterans Service Coordinating Committee
7 shall be established. The committee's membership shall be
8 comprised of representatives of public and private agencies who
9 provide services that may be used by homeless veterans. The
10 Director of the Department shall designate the agencies
11 represented on the committee. The committee shall discuss and
12 research ways in which veterans services provided by public and
13 private agencies can be made more easily available and better
14 focused to serve homeless veterans.

15 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
16 Section 5.786 as follows:

17 (30 ILCS 105/5.786 new)

18 Sec. 5.786. The Illinois Homeless Veterans Program Fund.

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