



Rep. Kyle Moore

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10400HB1352ham002

LRB104 06044 KTG 24454 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1352

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 1352, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 5. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is  
6 amended by changing Section 9 as follows:

7 (330 ILCS 45/9) (from Ch. 23, par. 3089)

8 Sec. 9. Veterans Assistance Commission.

9 (a) In counties having 2 or more veteran service  
10 organizations as may be recognized by law, the veteran service  
11 organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance  
12 Commission of such county. The Veterans Assistance Commission  
13 of such county may act as the central service office for all  
14 veterans and their families and for the families of deceased  
15 veterans. The Commission shall be composed of delegates and  
16 alternates from a majority of such veteran service

1 organizations selected annually as determined by each veteran  
2 service organization. When so organized a Commission shall be  
3 clothed with all the powers and may be charged with all the  
4 duties theretofore devolving upon the different veteran  
5 service organizations within the county as provided in Section  
6 2.

7 (1) Every January 1, all Veterans Assistance  
8 Commissions shall publish a notice to each veteran service  
9 organization within their respective county calling on  
10 them to select delegates and alternates for that county's  
11 Veterans Assistance Commission by the methods provided in  
12 this subsection. The Veterans Assistance Commissions shall  
13 allow each veteran service organization until March 1 to  
14 respond, at which time those selected and duly appointed  
15 delegates and alternates shall begin their term of office  
16 with full voting rights. Once selected, delegates and  
17 alternates are bound by the Public Officer Prohibited  
18 Activities Act.

19 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), veteran  
20 service organizations shall be permitted to select one  
21 delegate and one alternate.

22 (3) In counties with 5 or more of the same veteran  
23 service organizations, all the constituent veteran service  
24 organizations shall be permitted to select up to 5  
25 delegates and 5 alternates to represent that veteran  
26 service organization instead of each constituent veteran

1 service organization selecting one delegate and one  
2 alternate. For the purposes of meeting the majority  
3 requirement of this subsection, when the constituent  
4 groups of a veteran service organization choose to select  
5 those delegates and alternates, those selected and duly  
6 appointed delegates and alternates shall represent the  
7 aggregate percentage of the constituent groups.

8 (4) If a veteran service organization serves more than  
9 one county, then it shall be permitted to select one  
10 delegate and one alternate for the Veterans Assistance  
11 Commission in each county in which at least 25% of its  
12 members reside.

13 (5) All undertakings of, or actions taken by, the  
14 Commission shall require a vote from a majority of the  
15 full commission membership. No committee or other subgroup  
16 of delegates and alternates formed by the Commission,  
17 whether selected or appointed, may be granted the power or  
18 authority to act in the place of or on behalf of the full  
19 body of the duly selected or appointed Commission  
20 membership.

21 (6) No superintendent or any other employee of the  
22 Veterans Assistance Commission may retain the position of  
23 delegate or alternate or any voting rights while employed  
24 by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

25 (7) No committee or other subgroup of delegates and  
26 alternates formed by the Commission, whether selected or

1 appointed, may bar any other duly appointed Commission  
2 member from attending or otherwise being present during  
3 any closed meetings or sessions of that committee or  
4 group.

5 (8) The county may, at its discretion, appoint a  
6 representative to the Commission who may attend any public  
7 meeting of the Commission. That representative shall be a  
8 veteran, may not have voting rights, may not hold any  
9 office or title on the Commission, and may not be present  
10 during any nonpublic meeting of the Commission, except as  
11 authorized in this Act. For matters of executive session,  
12 the non-voting county appointee may attend meetings that  
13 are closed in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (5),  
14 (6), or (11) of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Open  
15 Meetings Act for litigation matters not relating to  
16 litigation between the Commission and the County.

17 (b) The Commission and its selected or appointed  
18 superintendent shall have oversight of the distribution of all  
19 moneys and supplies appropriated for the benefit of military  
20 veterans and their families, subject to such rules,  
21 regulations, administrative procedures or audit reviews as are  
22 required by this Act and as are necessary as approved by the  
23 Commission to carry out the spirit and intent of this Act. No  
24 warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for the  
25 payment of money without the presentation of an itemized  
26 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the

1 Commission.

2 (c) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
3 Commission, selected, appointed, or hired by the Commission is  
4 an at-will employee who shall be answerable to, and shall  
5 report to, the Commission.

6 (d) The superintendent shall be evaluated annually and a  
7 written report shall be generated. A copy of the report from  
8 the evaluation shall be provided to the entire Commission  
9 membership.

10 (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after  
11 delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service  
12 organizations file a written request calling for the  
13 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of  
14 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

15 (f) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall establish  
16 and maintain bylaws that outline the framework, policies, and  
17 procedures for conducting the business of the Commission and  
18 for the rules and regulations that apply to its members. Those  
19 bylaws shall reflect compliance with all relevant laws at the  
20 time they are established and shall be revised as necessary to  
21 remain in compliance with current law. The establishment of  
22 those bylaws, and any revisions thereafter, shall require a  
23 minimum two-thirds majority vote of approval from a majority  
24 of the full Commission membership.

25 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,  
26 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place

1 in its respective county, including, but not limited to,  
2 policies related to compensation, employee rights, ethics,  
3 procurement, and budget, and shall adapt those policies to fit  
4 its organizational structure. Those policies shall then be  
5 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission  
6 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by  
7 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall  
8 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an  
9 applicable policy within 60 days of the county board  
10 amendment.

11 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for  
12 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized  
13 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the  
14 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership.

15 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an  
16 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit  
17 Act using either the auditing services provided by its  
18 respective county or the services of an independent auditor  
19 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of  
20 that audit report shall be provided to the president or  
21 chairperson of the county board.

22 (j) Veterans Assistance Commissions and county boards  
23 subject to this Act shall cooperate fully with the boards,  
24 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the  
25 State. The funds held and made available by the county, the  
26 State, or any other source shall be subject to financial and

1 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State  
2 Auditing Act.

3 (k) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall be in charge  
4 of the administration of any benefits provided under Articles  
5 VI and IX of the Illinois Public Aid Code for military veterans  
6 and their families.

7 (l) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall represent  
8 veterans in their application for or attempts to obtain  
9 benefits and services through State and federal agencies,  
10 including representing veterans in their appeals of adverse  
11 decisions.

12 (m) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance  
13 Commission and its employees must comply with the procedures  
14 and regulations adopted by the Veterans Assistance Commission  
15 and the regulations of the Department of Human Services.

16 (n) To further the intent of this Act of assisting  
17 military veterans, this Act is to be construed so that the  
18 Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide needed services  
19 to eligible veterans.

20 (o) (1) In counties that do not have a Veterans Assistance  
21 Commission prior to January 1, 2026, and in which there exists  
22 a judicial circuit whose jurisdictional boundaries include  
23 multiple counties, veteran service organizations located  
24 within any of those counties that are within the judicial  
25 circuit's jurisdictional boundaries may come together and  
26 create a Jurisdictional Veterans Assistance Commission that

1 shall provide services to veterans and their families who  
2 reside in those participating counties. Each participating  
3 county shall levy the minimum amount of 0.02%, as indicated in  
4 Section 2, and deposit the proceeds in the county treasury of  
5 the seat of that judicial circuit. These proceeds shall be  
6 used for employment of staff of the Veterans Assistance  
7 Commission and financial assistance for the veterans and their  
8 families that reside within the geographical boundaries of  
9 that judicial circuit. The Veterans Assistance Commission  
10 shall be known as the Veterans Assistance Commission of that  
11 judicial circuit.

12 (2) Participating counties shall provide the support and  
13 materials required to administer a Jurisdictional Veterans  
14 Assistance Commission in the same manner individual counties  
15 are required under this Act to provide support and materials  
16 to single-county Veterans Assistance Commissions.

17 (3) The superintendent of a Veterans Assistance Commission  
18 formed in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be selected from  
19 among all honorably discharged veterans of all participating  
20 counties within that judicial circuit's boundaries and shall  
21 maintain a centrally located office within that judicial  
22 circuit. However, for a Veterans Assistance Commission formed  
23 within a large judicial circuit, the superintendent is not  
24 precluded from having multiple offices that shall be owned and  
25 maintained by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

26 (4) Delegates and alternates shall be selected by the

1 veterans service organizations of that judicial circuit in the  
2 same manner as prescribed in paragraph (1) of subsection (a).

3 (5) Any existing Veterans Assistance Commission that is  
4 part of a Judicial Circuit that is comprised of multiple  
5 counties, as of January 1, 2025, may merge into a Veterans  
6 Assistance Commission of that Judicial Circuit with its  
7 neighboring counties. Those existing Veterans Assistance  
8 Commissions that choose not to merge may continue to exist  
9 independently while the other counties combine to form a new  
10 Veterans Assistance Commission of that judicial circuit.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-484, eff. 8-20-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23;  
12 102-1132, eff. 2-10-23.)".