

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 38.1 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38.1 new)

7 Sec. 38.1. Veterans' Services Task Force.

8 (a) The Task Force created by Public Act 101-225 and  
9 repealed on December 31, 2023 is recreated as the Veterans'  
10 Services Task Force. The Task Force shall review and make  
11 recommendations regarding veterans' service-related ailments  
12 that are not recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans  
13 Affairs, including exploring why certain service-related  
14 ailments are not recognized and determining what may be done  
15 to have them recognized.

16 Additionally, the Task Force shall assess ways the State  
17 of Illinois can improve the rate at which disability  
18 compensation claims are approved by the federal government and  
19 correct the disparity between the U.S. Department of Veterans  
20 Affairs' approval of disability compensation for Illinois  
21 veterans and that which is approved for veterans in other  
22 states.

23 (b) The Task Force shall have 15 members, comprised as

1 follows:

2 (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or the  
3 Director's designee.

4 (2) 2 Members from the House of Representatives,  
5 appointed one each by the Speaker of the House and the  
6 House Minority Leader.

7 (3) 2 Members of the Senate, appointed one each by the  
8 President of the Senate and the Senate Minority Leader.

9 (4) One veteran, appointed by the Director of  
10 Veterans' Affairs.

11 (5) One medical professional with experience working  
12 with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by  
13 the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

14 (6) 4 representatives from a variety of veterans  
15 organizations representing geographic diversity in the  
16 State, appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

17 (7) 4 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
18 chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House of  
19 Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
20 minority spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee  
21 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
22 appointed by the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee  
23 of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
24 minority spokesperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee of  
25 the Senate. Those appointed to the Task Force under this  
26 paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'

1 Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,  
2 and VITAS officials.

3 Task Force members shall serve without compensation but  
4 may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing  
5 their duties.

6 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least twice a year and at  
7 any other times it deems necessary. Task Force members shall  
8 select from among themselves a chairperson or co-chairpersons  
9 at the initial Task Force meeting.

10 (d) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide  
11 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

12 (e) The Task Force shall prepare a report that summarizes  
13 its work and makes recommendations resulting from its study.  
14 The Task Force shall submit the report of its findings and  
15 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by  
16 December 31, 2026. The Task Force is dissolved, and this  
17 Section is repealed, on December 31, 2027.

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