



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3424

by Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/6 new

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Creates the Veterans' Disability Compensation Task Force. Provides specified objectives for the Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall consist of 15 members appointed by the chairs of the Veterans Affairs Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Provides that the members of the Task Force shall be members of different Illinois counties' Veteran's Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers, VITAS officials, and AMVETS officials. Provides that the Task Force shall meet once each month and that joint hearings of the Veterans Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives and Senate shall be held once each month. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide administrative and other support to the Task Force. Provides that the Task Force shall prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and submit it to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before May 1, 2020. Effective immediately.

LRB101 10370 CPF 55476 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

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 6 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/6 new)

7 Sec. 6. Veterans' Disability Compensation Task Force.

8 (a) The Veterans' Disability Compensation Task Force is
9 created. The Task Force has the following objectives:

10 (1) Determine why Illinois is ranked 52nd among all
11 other states and U.S. territories in providing disability
12 compensation to veterans and explore ways to address the
13 disparity.

14 (2) Determine what lessons can be taken from the
15 legionnaires' disease outbreak at Quincy, including, but
16 not limited to, what happened and why it happened.

17 (3) Evaluate the process that the Illinois Veterans
18 Affairs Commission uses to provide disability compensation
19 and how that process differs from states that have better
20 records of veteran care.

21 (b) The Task Force shall consist of 15 members appointed by
22 the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the House of
23 Representatives and the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee

1 in the Senate. The members of the Task Force shall be members
2 of different Illinois counties' Veteran's Assistance
3 Commissions, Veteran Service Officers, VITAS officials, and
4 AMVETS officials.

5 (c) Task Force members shall serve without compensation but
6 may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in performing
7 their duties. The Task Force shall meet once each month, and
8 joint hearings of the Veterans Affairs Committees of the House
9 of Representatives and Senate shall be held once each month.

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 on or
16 before May 1, 2020.

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