



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3508

by Rep. John Connor

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2805/38 new

Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that by July 1, 2019, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall develop a Transition Assistance Program for veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard of any state. Provides that the program shall be designed to assist veterans in successfully transitioning from military to civilian life in Illinois and shall complement the transition program offered by the United States Department of Defense. Provides that the program shall include specified Illinois-specific transition assistance resources and information covering specified topics. Provides that the program shall provide information to noncitizens who are leaving military service in Illinois or who have already been discharged from military service in Illinois. Provides that the information shall detail how to become United States citizens, including where to acquire State legal assistance. Provides that the Illinois National Guard shall inform its members that it will assist noncitizen members in acquiring United States citizenship as soon as they are eligible. Provides that if a noncitizen member requests such assistance, then the Illinois National Guard shall assist the member in filing all forms and paperwork necessary to become a United States citizen. Effective immediately.

LRB101 08897 CPF 53987 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 38 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/38 new)

7 Sec. 38. Transition Assistance Program.

8 (a) By July 1, 2019, the Department shall develop a
9 Transition Assistance Program for veterans who have been
10 discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States or the
11 National Guard of any state. The program shall be designed to
12 assist veterans in successfully transitioning from military
13 life to civilian life in Illinois and shall complement the
14 transition program offered by the United States Department of
15 Defense. The program shall include, but shall not be limited
16 to, provision of Illinois-specific transition assistance
17 resources and information covering the following topics:

18 (1) programs for and benefits of higher education for
19 veterans;

20 (2) vocational training;

21 (3) starting or running small businesses;

22 (4) health care programs and services;

23 (5) mental health;

1 (6) military sexual trauma; and

2 (7) housing.

3 (b) The program shall provide information to noncitizens
4 who are leaving military service in Illinois, or who have
5 already been discharged from military service in Illinois, that
6 details how to become United States citizens, including where
7 to acquire State legal assistance.

8 (c) The Illinois National Guard shall inform its members
9 that it will assist noncitizen members in acquiring United
10 States citizenship as soon as they are eligible. If a
11 noncitizen member requests such assistance, then the Illinois
12 National Guard shall assist the member in filing all forms and
13 paperwork necessary to become a United States citizen.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.