



Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit

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10200HB2369ham002

LRB102 11696 KTG 24869 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2369

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2369 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is
5 amended by changing Section 37 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2805/37)

7 Sec. 37. Illinois Joining Forces Foundation.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that navigating the "sea of
9 goodwill" for those who serve in uniform is one of the greatest
10 challenges that transitioning veterans face; as a result, they
11 risk being unable to access many of the federal, State, and
12 non-profit resources available to them. Recognizing this
13 problem, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the
14 Department of Military Affairs acted to establish the Illinois
15 Joining Forces initiative, a public-private network of
16 military and veteran-serving organizations that are working

1 together, in person and online, to create a ~~no wrong door~~
2 system of support for the State's military and veteran
3 communities. Illinois Joining Forces is a nation-leading
4 model, awarded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and
5 the National Association of State Directors of Veterans
6 Affairs for its groundbreaking work in creating smarter,
7 collaborative community support for those in uniform, past and
8 present. The foundation created by this amendatory Act of the
9 98th General Assembly will serve to ensure the long-term
10 sustainability of Illinois Joining Forces, which is critically
11 important for the support of the State's military and veteran
12 communities.

13 (b) The Illinois Joining Forces Foundation shall benefit
14 service members, veterans, and their families by:

15 (1) convening military and veteran support
16 organizations, ~~through Illinois Joining Forces working~~
17 ~~groups,~~ to build cross-sector relationships and mutual
18 awareness;

19 (2) providing policy recommendations ~~through Illinois~~
20 ~~Joining Forces member working groups to the Illinois~~
21 ~~Veterans' Advisory Council;~~

22 ~~(3) facilitating the transfer of information and~~
23 ~~knowledge among Illinois Joining Forces member~~
24 ~~organizations;~~

25 ~~(4) maintaining and continuing to build the~~
26 ~~no wrong door online navigation platform;~~

1 (3) ~~(5)~~ educating ~~Illinois Joining Forces members and~~
2 ~~other~~ community providers regarding military and veteran
3 culture and needs, thus improving the collective capacity
4 of the support system; and

5 (4) ~~(6)~~ outreaching directly to service members,
6 veterans, and their families regarding the ~~no wrong door~~
7 system of support that Illinois Joining Forces provides to
8 them.

9 (c) For the purpose of this Section, "veterans service
10 organization" means an organization that meets all of the
11 following criteria:

12 (1) The organization is formed by and for United
13 States military veterans.

14 (2) The organization is chartered by the United States
15 Congress and incorporated in the State of Illinois.

16 (3) The organization has maintained a State
17 headquarters office in Illinois for the 10-year period
18 immediately preceding the effective date of this
19 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

20 (4) The organization maintains at least one office in
21 this State, staffed by a veterans service officer.

22 (5) The organization is capable of preparing a power
23 of attorney for a veteran and processing claims for
24 veterans services.

25 ~~(6) The organization is not funded by the State of~~
26 ~~Illinois or by any county in this State.~~

1 (d) The General Assembly authorizes the Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs, in accordance with Section 10 of the State
3 Agency Entity Creation Act, to create the Illinois Joining
4 Forces Foundation as a not-for-profit foundation. The
5 Department shall file articles of incorporation as required
6 under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 to
7 create the Foundation.

8 The Foundation's Board of Directors shall be appointed as
9 follows: one member appointed by the Governor; one member
10 appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed
11 by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member appointed by
12 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one member
13 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
14 Representatives; ~~and all of the members of the Illinois~~
15 ~~Joining Forces Executive Committee, who shall be appointed by~~
16 ~~the Director of Veterans' Affairs.~~

17 The Foundation may also include up to 18 additional voting
18 members of the Board of Directors: 9 members to be nominated
19 and approved by the Board of Directors according to the
20 Foundation's bylaws, and 9 members to be appointed by the
21 Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director of Military
22 Affairs. The Board shall have an equal number of board or
23 department appointed members. To ensure parity, no additional
24 nominee may be considered by the Board of Directors unless a
25 like appointment is made by the Department of Veterans'
26 Affairs or the Department of Military Affairs, and vice versa.

1 In addition to any veterans service organization
2 otherwise represented on the Board of Directors, a veterans
3 service organization may designate in writing an ex officio,
4 non-voting participant to the Board of Directors. Any veterans
5 service organization appointee under this provision ~~Section~~
6 does not count towards a quorum.

7 The Director of Veterans' Affairs, or the Director's
8 designee, and a designee chosen by the Director of Military
9 Affairs who is a senior management official of the Department
10 of Military Affairs with the authority to make decisions on
11 behalf of the agency shall serve as members of the
12 Foundation's Board of Directors. Board of Director
13 appointments shall be for 2-year terms. Vacancies shall be
14 filled by the official who made the statutory appointment
15 ~~recommendation for the vacated appointment~~. No member of the
16 Board of Directors may receive compensation for his or her
17 services to the Foundation. Upon appointment, the Board of
18 Directors, as members of a public entity, shall be represented
19 and indemnified pursuant to the requirements of the State
20 Employee Indemnification Act.

21 (e) The purposes of the Foundation are to: promote,
22 support, assist, and sustain Illinois Joining Forces
23 operations; solicit and accept grants and private donations
24 and disburse them for the stated intent of the Foundation or
25 the private donor; solicit and generate public and private
26 funding and donations that assist in enhancing the Illinois

1 Joining Forces mission, services, programs, and operations;
2 and engage generally in other lawful endeavors consistent with
3 the foregoing purposes. The foundation shall operate within
4 the provisions of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act
5 of 1986.

6 (f) ~~The~~ As soon as practicable after the Foundation is
7 ~~created,~~ the Board of Directors shall meet, organize, and
8 designate, by majority vote, a chairperson, a treasurer, a
9 secretary, and any additional officers that may be needed to
10 carry out the activities of the Foundation and shall adopt
11 bylaws of the Foundation. In consultation with the
12 Foundation's Board of Directors, the Department of Veterans'
13 Affairs or the Department of Military Affairs may adopt other
14 rules deemed necessary to govern Foundation procedures. ~~The~~
15 ~~Department of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the~~
16 ~~Department of Military Affairs, may adopt other rules deemed~~
17 ~~necessary to govern Foundation procedures.~~

18 (g) The Foundation may request and accept gifts, grants,
19 donations, or bequests from the federal government or its
20 agencies or officers or from any person, firm, or corporation,
21 and may expend receipts on activities that it considers
22 suitable to the performance of its duties under this Section
23 and consistent with any requirement of the grant, gift,
24 donation, or bequest. Funds collected by the Foundation shall
25 be considered private funds and shall be held in an
26 appropriate account outside of the State treasury. Private

1 funds collected by the Foundation are not subject to the
2 Public Funds Investment Act. The treasurer of the Foundation
3 shall be the custodian of all Foundation funds. The treasurer
4 shall be required to obtain a fidelity or surety bond on
5 satisfactory terms and in sufficient amounts to protect the
6 interests of the Foundation, the cost of which shall be
7 reimbursed by the Foundation. The Foundation and its officers
8 shall be responsible for the approval of the recording of
9 receipts, approval of payments, and the proper filing of
10 required reports. The Foundation may be assisted in carrying
11 out its functions by Department of Military Affairs personnel
12 and may be assisted in carrying out its functions by
13 Department of Veterans' Affairs personnel, including, but not
14 limited to, legal professionals. The Foundation may receive
15 administrative support including, but not limited to, legal
16 professionals or additionally agreed upon support as needed or
17 requested, from either Department. The Department of Military
18 Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide
19 reasonable assistance to the Foundation to achieve the
20 purposes of the Foundation as determined by the respective
21 Directors. The Foundation shall cooperate fully with the
22 boards, commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions
23 of the State. The funds held and made available by the Illinois
24 Joining Forces Foundation shall be subject to financial and
25 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State
26 Auditing Act. The Foundation shall not have any power of

1 eminent domain. The Foundation shall not construct or make any
2 permanent improvements to any real property.

3 (h) The Foundation must provide a written notice to any
4 entity providing a gift, grant, donation, or bequest to the
5 Foundation that the Foundation is not subject to the
6 provisions of the Public Funds Investment Act, which Act
7 places limitations on the types of securities in which a
8 public agency may invest public funds.

9 (i) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
10 Foundation is not eligible for any grant administered ~~or~~
11 ~~funded~~ by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the
12 Department of Military Affairs, but may receive services,
13 including, but not limited to, contractual services, provided
14 by either Department.

15 (Source: P.A. 100-10, eff. 6-30-17.)".