



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1217

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Rep. Kevin Schmidt

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force Act. Creates the Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force to advise the Governor and General Assembly and work directly with State agencies and institutions of higher education to improve and expand policies, services, programs, and opportunities for service members, veterans, and their families. Provides specified subjects for the Task Force to review and make recommendations on. Requires the Task Force to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 1, 2023, and to other specified agencies in electronic form. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 1, 2024. Effective immediately.

LRB103 04810 KTG 49820 b

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Institution of higher education" means the University of
8 Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State
9 University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State
10 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois
11 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois
12 University, a community college, as that term is defined under
13 Section 1-2 of the Public Community College Act, any college
14 under the Public Community College Act, and any institution
15 that receives funds under the Higher Education Student
16 Assistance Act.

17 "Military service member" means a current or former member
18 of an active, guard, or reserve component in the Army, Navy,
19 Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Space Force.

20 Section 10. Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force.

21 (a) The Veterans' Licensure and Workforce Task Force is
22 created. The Task Force shall advise the Governor and General

1 Assembly and work directly with State agencies and
2 institutions of higher education to improve and expand
3 policies, services, programs, and opportunities for military
4 service members, veterans, and their families.

5 (b) The Task Force shall review how various State entities
6 and institutions of higher education within the State accept
7 or deny military education, military training, military
8 service and experience, community involvement, independent
9 study, and professional and occupational licensing for various
10 careers, as well as the licenses that military spouses and
11 dependents carry from state to state. The Task Force shall
12 review how Illinois recognizes or denies accreditation from
13 regional and national accreditation boards and how that
14 impacts military service members, veterans, and their spouses
15 and dependent children.

16 (c) The Task Force shall review the costs that military
17 service members, veterans, and their families undertake for
18 re-certification and license renewal fees and the cost to the
19 military service member, veteran, or their family member and
20 to the government for again accomplishing higher education
21 coursework that the military service member, veteran, or their
22 family member has already accomplished through his or her
23 military education and training.

24 (d) The Task Force shall review how Army, Air Force, and
25 Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps credits are accepted from
26 cadets and midshipmen by institutions of higher education.

1 (e) The Task Force shall make recommendations on how to
2 make Illinois more veteran-friendly regarding education,
3 training, and licenses already held by military service
4 members, veterans, and their families, with the goal of
5 reducing unemployment, homelessness, and financial hardships
6 among its military service member and veteran population,
7 attracting skilled veterans and their families to our State,
8 and empowering trained military service members and their
9 families to better provide for their families and contribute
10 to our economy sooner.

11 (f) The Task Force shall review and make recommendations
12 regarding professional and occupational licensing and the
13 difficulties encountered by military service members,
14 veterans, and their spouses and dependents, including, but not
15 limited to, exploring the licensing of those persons with
16 out-of-state licenses in equivalent occupations. The Task
17 Force shall make recommendations on how to best effectuate the
18 recognition of military experience for academic credit,
19 industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees.

20 (g) The Task Force shall assess ways the State can improve
21 the rate at which portability of licensures for military
22 service members, veterans, and their spouses is approved by
23 the State.

24 Section 15. Task Force members.

25 (a) The Task Force shall have 20 members, comprised as

1 follows:

2 (1) The Director of Veterans' Affairs or the
3 Director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson.

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

7 (3) Two members of the Senate, appointed one each by
8 the President of the Senate and the Senate Minority
9 Leader.

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

12 (5) The Secretary of Financial and Professional
13 Regulation or the Secretary's designee.

14 (6) A representative from the Illinois Board of Higher
15 Education, appointed by the Illinois Board of Higher
16 Education.

17 (7) A representative from the Illinois Community
18 College Board, appointed by the Illinois Community College
19 Board.

20 (8) A representative from the Illinois Articulation
21 Initiative, appointed by the Illinois Articulation
22 Initiative.

23 (9) Six representatives from a variety of veterans
24 organizations representing geographic diversity in the
25 State, including, but not limited to, members of various
26 war eras, different branches, different service

1 components, military spouses, and college veteran support
2 services directors, appointed by the Director of Veterans'
3 Affairs.

4 (10) Four members, one of whom shall be appointed by
5 the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House
6 of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the
7 minority spokesperson of the Veterans' Affairs Committee
8 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
9 appointed by the chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee
10 of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the
11 minority spokesperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee of
12 the Senate. Those appointed to the Task Force under this
13 paragraph shall be members of different Illinois counties'
14 Veterans Assistance Commissions, Veteran Service Officers,
15 and VITAS officials.

16 (b) Task Force members shall serve without compensation
17 but may be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in
18 performing their duties.

19 (c) The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly beginning
20 as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act,
21 and at other times as determined by the Task Force.

22 Section 20. Administrative support. The Department of
23 Veterans' Affairs shall provide administrative and other
24 support to the Task Force.

1 Section 25. Study. The Task Force shall perform a study,
2 which shall review all of the following and make any
3 recommendations the Task Force deems appropriate:

4 (1) Any materials produced by the Military Prior
5 Learning Assessment Task Force, which was created by
6 Public Act 99-395, with an analysis of any shortcomings
7 relating to military service members, student veterans,
8 and Reserve Officer Training Corps members.

9 (2) The Educational Credit for Military Experience
10 Act, with an analysis of any shortcomings relating to
11 military service members, student veterans, and Reserve
12 Officer Training Corps members.

13 (3) Professional and occupational licensing and the
14 difficulties encountered by military service members,
15 veterans, and their spouses and dependents, including, but
16 not limited to, exploring the licensing of military
17 service members with out-of-state licenses in equivalent
18 occupations and how to best effectuate the recognition of
19 military experience for academic credit,
20 industry-recognized licenses, credentials, and college
21 degrees.

22 (4) The costs and burdens that military service
23 members, veterans, and their families undertake for
24 re-certification and license renewal fees.

25 (5) The costs and burdens, both to the veteran and to
26 the State and federal governments, for re-accomplishing

1 higher education coursework that a veteran has already
2 taken through his or her military education and training,
3 as shown by the following:

4 (A) American Council on Education Military Guide;

5 (B) DD Form 2586 for Verification of Military
6 Experience and Training;

7 (C) Community College of the Air Force;

8 (D) Air University;

9 (E) College Level Examination Program;

10 (F) Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
11 Support program;

12 (G) Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
13 Support Subject Standardized Tests;

14 (H) Excelsior College Examinations;

15 (I) Air Force Institute of Technology;

16 (J) Department of Defense schools, such as the
17 Defense Language Institute;

18 (K) DA Form 1059 for Army Service School Academic
19 Evaluation Report;

20 (L) Non-commissioned officer evaluation reports;

21 (M) DD Form 295 for Application for the Evaluation
22 of Learning Experiences During Military Service;

23 (N) Joint Services Transcript, otherwise known as
24 the Sailor Marine Corps American Council on Education
25 Registry Transcript;

26 (O) Army American Council on Education Registry

1 Transcript System;
2 (P) Coast Guard Institute; and
3 (Q) Servicemembers Opportunity College.

4 Section 30. Report. The Task Force shall submit a report
5 of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly
6 and to the Governor on or before December 1, 2023. An
7 electronic form of the report shall also be provided to each
8 relevant State agency, including, but not limited to, the
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Financial
10 and Professional Regulation, and to the Illinois Board of
11 Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois
12 Articulation Initiative, and to all public and private
13 institutions of higher education throughout the State.

14 Section 35. Repeal. This Act is repealed on December 1,
15 2024.

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