

AN ACT concerning State government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Military Code of Illinois is amended by changing Section 15 and by adding Section 20.5 as follows:

(20 ILCS 1805/15) (from Ch. 129, par. 220.15)

Sec. 15. Assistant Adjutants General.

(a) The Commander-in-Chief shall appoint from the active officers of the Illinois National Guard, an Assistant Adjutant General for Army and an Assistant Adjutant General for Air each with a grade not to exceed Major General. Each of the Assistant Adjutants General shall be appointed for a term coinciding with the term provided for the Adjutant General in Section 14, and shall serve with the compensation and responsibilities as designated in this Act.

(a-5) The Commander-in-Chief shall appoint from the active officers of the Illinois National Guard an Assistant Adjutant General to serve as head of the Division of Family Affairs within the Department of Military Affairs, with a grade not to exceed Major General. The Assistant Adjutant General shall be appointed for a term coinciding with the term provided for the Adjutant General in Section 14, and shall serve with the compensation and responsibilities as designated in this Code.

(b) The Commander-in-Chief may also appoint additional Assistant Adjutants General for Army and such additional Assistant Adjutants General for Air with the grades not to exceed those authorized for the positions in the Joint Force Headquarters of the Illinois National Guard.

(Source: P.A. 94-842, eff. 1-1-07.)

(20 ILCS 1805/20.5 new)

Sec. 20.5. Division of Family Affairs. The Division of Family Affairs is created as a Division within the Department of Military Affairs. The head of the Division shall serve as an Assistant Adjutant General. The Division shall assist family members of military members who are mobilized or in service abroad. This assistance shall include, but need not be limited to, advocacy to help such family members access all available State services that are provided through the Department or any other State agency.

Section 10. The Department of Veterans Affairs Act is amended by adding Section 1.2 as follows:

(20 ILCS 2805/1.2 new)

Sec. 1.2. Division of Women Veterans Affairs. The Division of Women Veterans Affairs is created as a Division within the Department. The head of the Division shall serve as an Assistant Director of Veterans' Affairs. The Division shall

serve as an advocate for women veterans, in recognition of the unique issues facing women veterans. The Division shall assess the needs of women veterans with respect to issues including, but not limited to, compensation, rehabilitation, outreach, health care, and issues facing women veterans in the community. The Division shall review the Department's programs, activities, research projects, and other initiatives designed to meet the needs of women veterans and shall make recommendations to the Director of Veterans' Affairs concerning ways to improve, modify, and effect change in programs and services for women veterans.

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