

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 255 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, FOLMER, RAFFERTY, SABATINA, TEPLITZ, VOGEL, WILEY, YUDICHAK AND BROOKS, DECEMBER 5, 2015

SENATOR VULAKOVICH, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 9, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to review all
2 services, benefits and programs currently offered to
3 veterans, active, National Guard and Reserve service members
4 and their families by Commonwealth agencies, veteran service
5 organizations, secondary schools and the Federal Government.

6 WHEREAS, Over 900,000 Pennsylvania veterans, nearly 20,000
7 Pennsylvania National Guard members and thousands more currently
8 serving as active duty military personnel or military reservists
9 have answered the call of duty; and

10 WHEREAS, These brave men and women of our Commonwealth who
11 personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty and courage
12 have made tremendous sacrifices by being deployed, leaving their
13 homes, their families and, in many cases, their jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, These men and women have risked their lives to
15 protect the interests of our nation and our Commonwealth and to
16 defend our freedoms; and

17 WHEREAS, Many have suffered greatly and some have made the
18 ultimate sacrifice; and

1 WHEREAS, Supportive family members and loved ones of members
2 of our armed forces have also endured hardships, made sacrifices
3 and suffered through long separations and deployments; and

4 WHEREAS, In recognition of those sacrifices, the Commonwealth
5 has established services, benefits and programs to assist our
6 veterans, active service members and their families and
7 survivors; and

8 WHEREAS, Numerous veteran service organizations also
9 recognize the sacrifices and have established similar programs
10 of assistance; and

11 WHEREAS, Many institutions of higher education offer Reserve
12 Officer Training Corps, otherwise known as ROTC, as well as
13 other programs and services that support active, National Guard
14 and Reserve service members, veterans and their families; and

15 WHEREAS, The Senate wishes to rededicate itself to fulfilling
16 its commitment to all those who have served and continue to
17 serve; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
19 directed to review and provide a listing of all services,
20 benefits and programs currently offered to active, National
21 Guard and Reserve service members, veterans and their families
22 by Commonwealth agencies; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, THAT THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BE <--
24 DIRECTED TO SURVEY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPALITIES AND
25 PROVIDE A GENERAL LISTING OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS CURRENTLY
26 PROVIDED TO ACTIVE, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SERVICE MEMBERS,
27 VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND BE IT FURTHER

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
29 directed to survey veterans service organizations in this
30 Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, the members of the

1 State Veterans Commission, PA War Veterans Council and private
2 nonprofit organizations that advertise in their primary mission
3 statement that they provide a service or support to veterans and
4 their families, and compile a listing of services and programs
5 currently provided to veterans; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
7 directed to survey secondary schools, including military
8 schools, and institutions of higher education, including State-
9 owned, State-related and private colleges and universities, and
10 provide a general listing of services and programs currently
11 provided to active, National Guard and Reserve service members,
12 veterans and their families; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
14 directed to compile a listing of Federal benefits from
15 enlistment to death benefits for active, National Guard and
16 Reserve service members, veterans and their families; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
19 directed to review and compare other states' services, benefits
20 and programs for active service members, veterans and their
21 families and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on
22 additional programs to consider and how to administer current
23 programs more effectively; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, within
25 one year of the adoption date of this resolution, provide a
26 report and directory to the Senate outlining the services,
27 benefits and programs offered and the name of the providing
28 entity, the eligibility requirement and the appropriate contact
29 information for each service, benefit and program.