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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL  
No. 1356 Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY SEMMEL, SATHER, BEBKO-JONES, R. MILLER, DeWEESE,  
ALLEN, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, BUNT,  
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CLARK, COY, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DeLUCA,  
FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FORCIER, GABIG, GEORGE, GODSHALL, HARHAI,  
HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KELLER, KENNEY, LAUGHLIN,  
LEDERER, LEWIS, McCALL, PIPPY, PRESTON, READSHAW, SCHULER,  
SHANER, SOLOBAY, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRELLO, TRICH, WALKO, WOGAN,  
WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, ZUG, MARSICO, CLYMER AND MICHLOVIC,  
APRIL 17, 2001

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SENATOR THOMPSON, APPROPRIATIONS, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS  
AMENDED, JUNE 3, 2002

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the composition  
3 of the State Armory Board; ~~and providing for a Veterans'~~ <—  
4 ~~Ombudsman.~~ AND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' MEMORIAL TRUST <—  
5 FUND.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 1501 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania  
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

10 § 1501. Composition and general functions.

11 The State Armory Board shall consist of the Adjutant General,  
12 who shall act as chairman, and [five] eight members appointed by  
13 the Adjutant General. Three of the members of the State Armory  
14 Board appointed by the Adjutant General shall be members of the

1 Pennsylvania National Guard. The State Armory Board shall  
2 exercise the powers, duties and provisions of this chapter. The  
3 board shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the  
4 board. It shall provide, equip, maintain, manage and regulate  
5 armories for the use of the Pennsylvania military forces. It  
6 may, with the approval of the Governor, accept gifts of land,  
7 with or without buildings thereon, to be used for military  
8 purposes. The title to all such land shall be taken in the name  
9 of the Commonwealth. It may also employ funds appropriated to it  
10 to purchase, for armory purposes, any suitable buildings or  
11 sites.

12 ~~Section 2. Title 51 is amended by adding a section to read:~~ <—

13 ~~§ 1713. Veterans' Ombudsman.~~

14 ~~The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs shall~~  
15 ~~appoint a Veterans' Ombudsman to receive and investigate~~  
16 ~~complaints made by individual veterans concerning medical care~~  
17 ~~or services provided by a State medical care facility or~~  
18 ~~veterans' home. The Veterans' Ombudsman shall also provide~~  
19 ~~information and referrals concerning medical care or services~~  
20 ~~provided by a Federal medical care facility or veterans' home.~~

21 SECTION 2. SECTION 1905(B) OF TITLE 51 IS AMENDED TO READ: <—

22 § 1905. PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' MEMORIAL TRUST FUND.

23 \* \* \*

24 (B) PURPOSE.--THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE USED FOR THE  
25 SELECTION, DESIGN [AND], CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE  
26 OF AN APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL MONUMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE  
27 INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEMETERY AND OTHER COSTS INCIDENTAL  
28 THERETO.

29 \* \* \*

30 ~~Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~ <—

1       SECTION 3.   THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:

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2           (1)   THE AMENDMENT OF 51 PA.C.S. § 1501 SHALL TAKE EFFECT  
3   IN 60 DAYS.

4           (2)   THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT  
5   IMMEDIATELY.