
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1531 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, SOLOBAY, TOMLINSON, MENSCH, GORDNER,
ERICKSON, VOGEL, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, FONTANA, YUDICHAK,
RAFFERTY AND STACK, MAY 29, 2012

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MAY 29,
2012

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 75 (Vehicles) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans'
3 Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs,
4 establishing the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund; and, in
5 registration of vehicles, further providing for special
6 plates for veterans.

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

9 Section 1. Chapter 17 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

11 SUBCHAPTER C

12 PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS TRUST FUND AND

13 PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS FOUNDATION

14 Sec.

15 1721. Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund.

16 1722. Contributions from drivers' licenses, registrations and
17 special license plates.

18 1723. Use of driver's license or identification card to
19 indicate veteran status.

1 1724. Administrative provisions.

2 1725. Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation.

3 § 1721. Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund is
5 established in the State Treasury.

6 (b) Source of revenue.--The Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund
7 shall be funded from the following sources:

8 (1) Proceeds paid by the Department of Transportation
9 under section 1722 (relating to contributions from drivers'
10 licenses, registrations and special license plates) and 75
11 Pa.C.S. § 1364(b) (relating to special plates for veterans).

12 (2) In fiscal year 2012, the sum of \$1,700,000 shall be
13 transferred from the General Fund. This transfer shall occur
14 after sale of lands, buildings or other real estate used for
15 veterans' facilities or programs under the jurisdiction and
16 control of the department, excluding proceeds deposited in
17 the State Treasury Armory Fund under section 1511 (relating
18 to State Treasury Armory Fund).

19 (3) Grants, gifts, donations and other payments from the
20 Federal Government, individuals, corporations, other trusts
21 and foundations or other legal entities.

22 (4) Such funds as may, from time to time, be
23 appropriated to the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund.

24 (c) Appropriation.--Moneys in the Pennsylvania Veterans
25 Trust Fund are specifically appropriated on a continuing basis
26 to the department for the purposes specified in subsection (d).

27 (d) Expenditures.--The department may expend moneys from the
28 Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund for the following purposes:

29 (1) To make grants to the Pennsylvania Veterans
30 Foundation or other Statewide charitable foundations or

1 veterans' service organizations for funding programs and
2 projects to support Pennsylvania veterans and their families.

3 (2) To make grants to, and provide funding support for,
4 new, innovative and expanded efforts and programs operated by
5 the County Directors of Veterans Affairs.

6 (3) To make grants to Statewide veterans' service
7 organizations in addition to the grants authorized and funded
8 pursuant to section 9304 (relating to grants to veterans'
9 service officer programs).

10 (4) To assist Pennsylvania veterans in need of shelter
11 and the necessities of living to the extent that other funds
12 are not appropriated and other resources are not available
13 for that purpose.

14 (5) To assist in the operation, maintenance and repair
15 of Pennsylvania monuments honoring Pennsylvania service
16 members and veterans who served in the United States or
17 overseas.

18 (e) Contributions and solicitation of funds.--The department
19 is authorized to solicit and accept, on behalf of the
20 Commonwealth, gifts, donations, legacies and usages of money for
21 the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund from individuals,
22 organizations, public or private corporations or other similar
23 entities.

24 (f) Procedures, policies and guidelines.--The department
25 shall establish procedures, policies and guidelines for
26 operation and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust
27 Fund within 60 days of the effective date of this section. The
28 guidelines shall be published as a notice in the Pennsylvania
29 Bulletin, but shall not be subject to review under section 205
30 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as

1 the Commonwealth Documents Law, sections 204(b) and 301(10) of
2 the act of October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the
3 Commonwealth Attorneys Act or the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633,
4 No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.

5 (g) Reports.--Beginning on or before July 31, 2013, and
6 every year thereafter, the department shall submit a report to
7 the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and
8 Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chairman
9 and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
10 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives detailing
11 the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund revenues and expenditures
12 in the prior fiscal year and describing the activities, programs
13 and projects funded.

14 § 1722. Contributions from drivers' licenses, registrations and
15 special license plates.

16 (a) General rule.--Beginning as soon as practicable, but not
17 later than one year from the effective date of this section, the
18 Department of Transportation shall provide an applicant for:

19 (1) An original or renewal driver's license or
20 identification card the opportunity to make a contribution of
21 \$2 to the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund. The contribution
22 shall be added to the regular fee for an original or renewal
23 driver's license or identification card. One contribution may
24 be made for each issuance or renewal of a driver's license or
25 identification card. Contributions shall be used exclusively
26 for the purposes enumerated in section 1721 (relating to
27 Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund).

28 (2) A renewal vehicle registration the opportunity to
29 make a contribution of \$2 to the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust
30 Fund. The contribution shall be added to the regular fee for

1 a renewal of a vehicle registration. One contribution may be
2 made for each renewal vehicle registration. Contributions
3 shall be used exclusively for the purposes described in
4 section 1721.

5 (b) Special veterans' license plates.--The Pennsylvania
6 Veterans Trust Fund shall receive the proceeds for all special
7 motor vehicle license plates issued by the Department of
8 Transportation to honor Pennsylvania veterans as provided by 75
9 Pa.C.S. § 1364(b) (relating to special plates for veterans).
10 § 1723. Use of driver's license or identification card to
11 indicate veteran status.

12 (a) General rule.--Beginning as soon as practicable, but not
13 later than 18 months following the effective date of this
14 section, the Department of Transportation shall process requests
15 from military veterans to place a veteran designation on the
16 driver's license or identification card of the veteran.

17 (b) Application process.--Upon receipt of an application
18 from a veteran accompanied by a one-time payment of a \$5 license
19 designation fee, which shall be in addition to any renewal or
20 duplicate driver's license or identification card fee, and by
21 such documentation as the Department of Transportation shall
22 require, the Department of Transportation shall issue the
23 veteran a driver's license or identification card displaying a
24 veteran designation.

25 § 1724. Administration provisions.

26 (a) Agreement.--The Department of Transportation and the
27 department shall enter into an agreement which provides that the
28 department shall reimburse the Motor License Fund from the
29 Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund for the Department of
30 Transportation's actual annual operating costs of the veteran

1 programs in sections 1722 (relating to contributions from
2 drivers' licenses, registrations and special license plates) and
3 1723 (relating to use of driver's license or identification card
4 to indicate veteran status).

5 (b) Deposits.--The Department of Transportation shall
6 monthly determine the total amount collected under sections 1722
7 and 1723 and shall report that amount to the State Treasurer,
8 who shall transfer that amount to the Pennsylvania Veterans
9 Trust Fund.

10 (c) Cost of administration.--The Pennsylvania Veterans Trust
11 Fund shall reimburse the Motor License Fund for the actual costs
12 incurred by the Department of Transportation in the development
13 and implementation of the programs under sections 1722 and 1723
14 as well as the actual operating costs of the programs.
15 § 1725. Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation.

16 (a) Charter granted.--The Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation,
17 a Statewide charitable foundation whose purpose is to assist and
18 provide benefits for Pennsylvania veterans and their families,
19 is chartered and recognized.

20 (b) Board of directors and governance.--The Deputy Adjutant
21 General for Veterans' Affairs or his successor or designee shall
22 serve as ex officio members of the board of directors of the
23 Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation. The foundation will be
24 governed by a board of directors in accordance with its
25 corporate bylaws.

26 (c) Funding.--In addition to raising funds in any manner
27 authorized by law for charitable foundations, the Pennsylvania
28 Veterans Foundation shall receive grants and other funding from
29 the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund. The department or the
30 Auditor General may conduct such audits and reviews of the

1 foundation's use of grants from the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust
2 Fund as the Adjutant General or Auditor General deems
3 appropriate. Copies of all such audit reports and reviews shall
4 be furnished to the chairman and minority chairman of the
5 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
6 Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans
7 Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
8 Representatives.

9 Section 2. Section 1364 of Title 75 is amended to read:

10 § 1364. Special plates for veterans.

11 (a) Honorably discharged veterans.--Upon application of any
12 person who is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed
13 forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed
14 forces as defined in 51 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to
15 definitions), accompanied by a fee of \$20 which shall be in
16 addition to the annual registration fee and by such
17 documentation as the department shall require, the department
18 shall issue to the person a special registration plate
19 designating the vehicle as belonging to a person who is a
20 veteran of the armed forces of the United States. The special
21 registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck
22 with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds.

23 (b) Honoring our veterans.--Upon application of any person,
24 accompanied by a fee of \$35, which shall be in addition to the
25 annual registration fee and by such documentation as the
26 department shall require, the department shall issue to the
27 person a special registration plate designating the vehicle as
28 belonging to a person who is honoring veterans of the armed
29 forces of the United States. The special registration plate may
30 be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross

1 weight of not more than 10,000 pounds. The Pennsylvania Veterans
2 Trust Fund shall receive \$15 of the fee paid by the applicant
3 for the plate.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

5 (1) The amendment of 75 Pa.C.S. § 1364 shall take effect
6 in 180 days.

7 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
8 immediately.